

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On January 21st, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. G. C. DEW, a son.

On January 22nd, at Shanghai, the wife of P. WESTENDORFF, of a daughter.

On February 3rd, at Cliftonia, Macdonnell Road, the wife of J. HOOPER, of a son.

DEATHS.

On January 23rd, at Shanghai, A. J. C. LIGHTBODY, late of Bombala, New South Wales, aged 36 years.

On January 26th, at the Government Civil Hospital, GEORGE ANDREW CHALMERS, of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, aged 31 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of January 2nd arrived, per the ss. *Zieten*, on Thursday, the 1st instant, and the French Mail of January 5th arrived, per the ss. *Tourane*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The sixth plague case for the year was recorded on Feb. 5.

There is a report that the Japanese Government proposes to take over all the railways in Japan.

The net profit made by the Japanese Government Railways in 1905 equalled 7½ per cent. on all the capital invested.

The chief engineer of the Panama Canal has officially reported that Chinese labour alone is of use effectually there.

The *Government Gazette* notifies that Mr. S. Swart will remain in charge of both the Norwegian and Swedish consulates in Hongkong.

The Civil List mentions the names of 29 Pensioned Officers of the Hongkong Civil Service, who draw annually an aggregate of about \$57,922.

\$30,240,013.91 was received at the Treasury between January 1st and November 30th, 1905, while the payments out for the same period amounted to \$33,420,124.55.

Reuter's telegram about the alleged proposal to sell the Philippines to Japan was at once officially described as "untrue and absurd." It did not originate in America. The denial was necessary because the Filipinos were greatly disturbed by the rumour.

Since 1844 there have been ten Colonial Secretaries, ten Colonial Treasurers, nine Chief Justices, and ten Attorneys General. There have been only six Puisne Judges, the first, Mr. Henry John Ball, acting in 1862.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says the Throne has wired to all the provinces strictly prohibiting all sales of land to foreigners, and ordering the cancellation of all sales privately made, as these sales may interfere with projected railways, etc.

The Directors of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund are Messrs. A. M. Thompson, Colonial Treasurer, L. A. M. Johnston, P.M.G., C. M. Messer, Assistant Land Officer, E. H. d'Aquino, First Clerk, Stamp Office, and S. B. Carne Ross, Cadet.

The Japanese committee of investigation having returned their report of their investigations at Indian and Australian ports, it has been decided to establish a Port Trust at Kobe, and to erect a pier so that deep-sea steamers can moor alongside. This will be a blow to the ambitions of Osaka.

The general managers of the Laon Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company announce that the balance at the credit of profit and loss account for 1905 amounts to Tls. 173,685.28, out of which the board recommend a payment of a dividend of Tls. 8.00 per share, which will absorb Tls. 57,264.00.

The *Sunday Sun* pays a big compliment to the men of the China Squadron. It says:—"Had Charles Joseph Bonaparte been in Manila during the visit of the British Fleet, it would have done his heart good to witness the good behaviour of the sailor hosts and their guests. No arrests were made during the visit of the fleet, and only three men were left here on the sailing of the visitors for Saigon."

In consequence of accidents and the resulting action of insurance companies, all the Japanese steamer lines are now enlisting the services of foreign officers. Instead of being "frozen out" gradually, as was feared at one time, these men now find increasing openings in the Japanese service. It appears that the Japanese tonnage has been growing faster than the supply of officers, notwithstanding that a three years' course in the naval school qualifies a man for a commander's "ticket."

A Chinese saying runs, "The sea has no bounds, the Yellow River no bottom." It is in this bottomless torrent that over a hundred piers rest, supporting a bridge more than two miles long—the newly-opened Peking-Hankow Railway viaduct. Trains are now, it is said, running regularly over it. Each train has first, second, and third class coaches, with mail-van, and through tickets are now being issued.

Reclamation works and improvements have been made on the dock side of Yokohama harbour. The importance of Kanagawa (which has now excellent tram connection with the port) is expected to revive, while railway passenger traffic from Kobe and the South is being diverted from the awkwardly situated Hiranuma station. Electric trams are also opening up Kamakura as a residential quarter. Trams run from Yokohama to Tokyo now, an hour and a half ride for twenty sen.

Apparently Chinese actors, like their Occidental confreres, can obtain very high salaries when they attain to some distinction in their profession. A "number one" stage artiste from Canton has, we are told, just been engaged by a local Chinese theatre for seven days at the handsome remuneration of \$500, which seems a very high figure. Certainly when a comparison is made between the emoluments of European and Chinese actors, it will be admitted that this gentleman, judged by the standard of salary, is in the front of his profession.

The practice of farming tickets for admission to the best parts of native theatres has long been a source of trouble to the police in Hongkong. Some outsiders procure all the dollar tickets for front seats and offer these for sale at the entrance at perhaps one dollar ten cents. As the intending visitor cannot obtain a ticket in any other way he is bound to pay the enhanced price or content himself with a cheaper and less convenient seat. Not a few Chinese make a living in this way, and though the police are endeavouring to suppress the practice it is difficult to catch those engaged. However, one man was captured at the Tai Ping theatre on Friday night and had to leave a bail of \$25 before he regained his liberty. This was estreated by his failure to appear before the Magistrate next day.

The following words occurred in an essay on "Character and Education," by a Chinese student:—"A glance at the present condition of some of the government schools in China will amply prove this statement. The managers and presidents of many of the aforesaid schools are themselves lazy, opium smokers, and gamblers. Most of them know not a word of English and have not the least experience in the practical management of schools. They owe their position to the fact that they happen to be the nephews and sons-in-law of certain officials. Then the professors and teachers, following the example of their superiors, also neglect their duties. In short, all shut their eyes to the responsibility that is placed in their hands of making the boys and girls entrusted to them gentlemen and gentlewomen. They are not turning out men of moral character, but graduates with a smattering of English and loose principles of life, who are a constant source of danger to our country. They are everywhere the agitators, loudest in time of success, but slinking away when anything serious happens, and deserting their dupes to fare as best they can."

THE ALLEGED DECLINE OF GREAT BRITAIN—

(Daily Press, 24th January.)

Count HIROSAWA, a Japanese who passed through Cambridge University with some credit, and who has recently revisited England, has said some startling things to a *Standard* interviewer, about the deterioration of the English which he thinks he noticed. The Count meant well, it is evident, and his remarks make very interesting reading; but we do not think that Englishmen will feel particularly concerned by them, either to take offence, or to flee the wrath to come. The Japanese critic of the people among whom he got knowledge has merely turned the tables upon the average writer of books about Japan. He saw a little, read more, and by an empiric feat of adjustment, arrived at a verdict more imposing than important. Too fond of pleasure, and not fond enough of self-sacrifice, is one of his indictments of JOHN BULL. He has heard of CHAMBERLAIN, and blames the English for buying their food from abroad; he has read the "back to the land" agitations of the half-penny papers, and notes "the concentration of the masses in towns;" he has heard quotations from KIPLING and SANDOW, and regrets "the absence of physical training;" and we cannot guess his inspiration for lamenting the absence of "the teaching of patriotism." If any branch of learning is neglected in England, we can assure him it is not the cult of patriotism. Every Englishman is "born a little Liberal or a little Conservative," it has been said; and it may be added that the infant is nurtured on patriotism, or what ought to make for patriotism. Count HIROSAWA says, "But I find in your public life a great many men with axes to grind in Parliament, in the army, and on the Press. There are far too many legal men in your Parliament. More business men are wanted in both Houses. The business element is needed in all Governments, but in England more than anywhere." Columns of comment could be written on that, but as it might lead to one of those interminable discussions like "Do we believe?" or "What is whisky?" we will leave it as a mental stimulant, to be taken "neat." Our critic is still parrot-like in his echoing of the idiotic suggestion that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance (where it implies military help in India if needed) is a symptom of decadence. With equal sense it could be argued that any nation with paid troops is decadent; and that only those with conscription or, better still, with every citizen a fighting-man, are safe. Carried to its logical end, this would make the Zulus the advance guard of civilisation. The Count's point of view is apparent in the remark, "I do not think that the commercial struggle for the markets of the Far East will be so injurious to Germany as to England. German methods of trade are efficient, and Germans work harder than the British will consent to do. I think the commercial rivalry between Japan and Great Britain will be acute, and that Britain will suffer." But it is not worth while following all the melancholy forecast, which is but one more example of the croakings that have been sounded in British ears more or less regularly during the last two hundred and fifty years. It is possible that too much is made of the axiom that a nation must either rise or fall, that there can be no standing still; but without stopping to split straws, it is certain that very often much depends upon the observer. A faddist who sees the world wagging along indifferent to his reforms and panaceas is

prone to describe that world as rushing headlong to ruin. Count HIROSAWA may not be a quack-doctor, but he comes from an impressionable university, and he seems to have taken his prototypes altogether too seriously. It is almost safe to assume that he subscribed to the *Times* Encyclopædia, for the simple reason that he could not resist the impressive announcement that there was "only one day more." The British Empire's days are not so nearly ended as all that.

—AND OF GERMANY.

(Daily Press, 25th January.)

In so happens that the remarks ensuing follow yesterday's "by fair sequence and succession." We referred to recent criticisms of England and the English, and tried to minimise the terrors and tremours aroused by the discoverers of bogies and croakers in general. Our point was recently happily expressed at Dover by the Right Honourable GEORGE WYNDHAM, M.P., who said the danger of our times is, not that we shall be too idle; but that we shall brutalise ourselves by too much worry and excitement over industry and politics, and thus prevent our being in the full sense truly human beings. Extremes either way are to be avoided, and we have to attack one at a time. This croaking and worrying has become quite a vogue of late; hence the deprecation. It is not confined to Great Britain, though. We seem to see signs of it in a pamphlet issued by the Directors of the Hamburg-America Linie, dealing with German trade interests in Asia. If the croakers on both sides are studied, it at once becomes apparent how exaggerated are their views. The British ones (and their Japanese echo whom we dealt with yesterday) have it that the Germans are winning all along the line; the Germans are convinced that they are being left behind in the race for prosperity. Both cannot be right, but both may be mistaken. Besides these so-called warnings are generally uttered with a purpose—a sort of "hangman's whip to hold the wretch in order." In the pamphlet referred to, Herr VON BRANDT, an old China-hand, completely reverses the aphorism of Count HIROSAWA (*vide* yesterday's leader) and tells the Germans that they must route themselves to recover lost ground; ground lost, by the way, owing "their want of adaptability in trade!" He particularly mentions their neglect of the cotton industry, for which China offers the biggest market in the world, and says this is another "gloomy example of their shortsightedness which has been especially disastrous in its effect upon German shipping on the coast of" The China. bulk of the pamphlet is by another hand—an anonymous writer who states that he resided forty years in China. His theme is chiefly the opposition to be offered by Japan in China. He points out that Germany's share of China's collective imports in 1895 was 6.2 per cent. of the total, while in 1904 it was only 5.7 per cent. Japan's share, on the other hand, only 4.8 per cent. in 1895, had risen to 12.3 per cent. in 1904. And so forth, and so on, with other figures, all of which, as is well known, while they appear to be able to prove anything, generally prove nothing. Another reference in the same pamphlet leads us to think that the object was to encourage the organisation of the big German exhibition to be held at Tsingtau. That is very proper, and very desirable; but the method is a dangerous one. The goad and the spur may be overdone. What is meant to encourage may, by iteration and

re-iteration, become an axiom the truth of which is instantly admitted with a shrug of resignation, and with discouraging effect. Optimism is an asset that should not be too much written down by business men; it is a form of the faith that moves mountains. The destroyer of self-confidence in a worker is a destroyer of virtue; and the same self-confidence is a desirable national asset.

COREA AND JAPAN.

(Daily Press, 27th January.)

That Korea would fall under the tutelage of Japan, in the event of the latter being successful in the late war, has long been a foregone conclusion. All the circumstances pointed to the necessity of Japan's securing some kind of influence in the administration of that country. In its weak state, Korea was bound to continue to be a menace to the independence of Japan as opening the door to any ambitious Power which might step in and take it under its control. Having succeeded in preventing Russia from doing so, it was hardly likely that Japan would be so unmindful of her own interests as to allow Korea to remain a ready spoil to any ambitious Power. Japan had, by her successful military operations, thoroughly established herself in the country; and it would be absurd to imagine that, after having gone through such a struggle, she would entirely abandon the vantage ground which she had gained with so much difficulty. At the same time it was well known that Japan did not contemplate undertaking greater responsibilities abroad than were absolutely necessary, well knowing there would be opposition of a character she would rather not provoke, if she adopted the attitude of having conquered the country and being entitled, by virtue of such conquest, to take it under her control. A middle course was, therefore, generally expected as that which she would naturally adopt; and the event has proved that this view of the subject was correct. According to the declaration made by Marquis ITO in London Japan deprecates any action which will have the effect of overthrowing the Korean Empire, and has given assurances that she intends to interfere in Korea only so far as foreign relations are concerned and that she will respect the authority of Korea with regard to all other matters of administration. In short, this amounts to saying that she intends to establish a kind of Protectorate over Korea similar to that established by Great Britain over Egypt. It is natural to speculate whether such an arrangement may not, as time goes on, resemble that Protectorate more closely than some persons would desire to see; and that the position may prove such that nothing short of virtual government of the Empire will be sufficient to secure the ends which she has in view. A weak people such as the Koreans are known to be are likely to fall so much under the sway of a determined nation like Japan that little by little the tutelage which the latter exercises may be pressed to points outside its immediate and declared object; and thus the independence of Korea may be ultimately lost. Whether this will be the case or not must largely depend upon Korea. Japan wishes to educate Korea and induce it to come into line with modern international necessities; and if she can do this without assuming the responsibility of actually taking over the country she will be the better pleased. But the one thing necessary is that Korea should be raised to such a position that she will no longer be regarded as a species of "no man's

land" open to be taken up by any Power which may have a fancy for so doing. If she can be raised by Japanese teaching to such a position that she can hold her own against any aggregation Japan will be content with the removal of what forms a constant menace to the safety of her own position. It may, of course, prove that the effects thus made will be abortive, and in that case the present Protectorate will have the important effect of placing Japan in a better position than any other nation for taking control of the country. On the whole, if Corea can be maintained as an independent nation, there can be little question that the best that can happen in the interests of all concerned is that she should be taken in hand by a nation like Japan which knows her customs and wants and which also is aware of what is necessary to bring her into line as to her policy with foreign nations. What the outcome will ultimately be it is, of course, impossible to predict, but, as matters at present stand, the course which has been adopted is that which commends itself as the best that can be taken.

THE TRUE GLORY OF KINGS.

(Daily Press, 29th January.)

There have been in all ages crowned heads who would have esteemed it the acme of human felicity to have been able after seven long years to take off their crowns, and retire from business with the sure conviction that they had served their country well, and had added honour, not only to themselves but to their country: such will be the happy conditions under which on the 16th of next month President LOUBET will yield up the emblems and pomp of royalty. Even such confirmed and expressed socialists as M. JAURES have nothing to allege against his rule, and M. JAURES himself stands up in the Chamber of Deputies and is able to point to the contrast between the manner in which he is received and the threatening invectives hurled at the heads of Herr BEBEL in the Reichstag by the Imperial Chancellor. Yet Herr BEBEL is the largest party in Germany, and while ministerialists can send to the poll their million and a quarter of voters Herr BEBEL found himself backed by no less than three millions. Fortunately for Germany there still exists in the Reichstag a refuge for free speech, and the outspoken tribune has been able to speak out some truths, very unpleasant to the Government, and all the more so that the hectoring Prince von BUELOW has been unable to deny their truth, and has been driven by the irony of fate to take refuge in the last asylum of untruth—invective. More than once or twice the extraordinary sympathy evinced by the Government of the KAISER with the reactionary party in Russia, which has brought that country within measurable distance of extinction, has fallen under the lash of the redoubtable leader of the Socialist Party, who points to the ominous object lesson being enacted across the frontier. Strangely the lesson as yet has been unheeded, and the KAISER's advisers still try the old and worn out expedient of dragooning an entire nation, as if ever in history that expedient had proved successful, or had had other result than undermining the very springs of national existence. We can under these circumstances, and remembering the very similar course of action attempted by these same advisers towards France, comprehend why the people of France should evince the great interest which they undoubtedly do in what some enthusiasts call the Russian "Revolution."

That the folly of Autocracy, as is called the fantastic exhibition of disorderly bureaucracy under which Russia groans, has come home to the *canaille* of the nation is indisputable, but revolution, though it may be largely brought about by terror, and through terror may be led to the perpetration of the most sickening atrocities, can never succeed in reconstructing a nation until it fall into the hands of a leader. Now it is precisely the want of leaders, or a capacity for leading, that renders so singularly ineffective the whole system of Russian government. As a nation the Russian people are devoid of those qualities which go towards making a country great. Russia, indeed, a few years ago looked big on paper. When in 1849 she sent across the Hungarian frontier some thousands of men in uniform, who gained a victory over a few thousands of unorganised and insufficiently armed peasants, the world was startled into the belief that Russia was a great and formidable Power. The Crimean war, unluckily, as we now see, not carried to its legitimate conclusion, showed to those capable of seeing that the gigantic show was little more effective when put to the test than the display of tiger shields which the Chinese army of half a century ago conceived would strike terror into the hearts of European antagonists. Since then Russia in arts, as in civilisation, has been steadily retrogressing; in 1877 she indeed, after the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands, succeeded in capturing from a poorly equipped and disheartened Turkish army the fortress of Plevna, but the strain so completely disorganised her that she had to yield up at Berlin all the fruits, as she considered them, of the disastrous campaign. All Russia's leaders in all time have come from the alien races. At the beginning of the regime her rulers, themselves of foreign blood, had the ability to recognise this, but their successors, the feeble and truculent bureaucracy who represent government there in these latter days, have been ambitious of kicking down the ladder by which their predecessors ascended. This is the position which M. JAURES and his companions fail to comprehend. When, therefore, M. JAURES told the meeting of the Socialists of Paris that the Russian "Revolution" was distinctly international in character he misunderstood the position entirely: as a fact the French people have no interest one way or other in the *emeute* in that country—which is merely the wriggling of a people who have congregated on the land in numbers so great as to overtax its capabilities. To support himself and wife, the peasant, according to statistics, needs at least two acres of land; owing to his improvident ways there is only left to him at best two and a half acres, and the odd half goes to support his landlord and the Chinovnik, who take care to help themselves to the best. In the peasant's eyes the situation is simple; relief can only come by disburdening the land of the latter; if they go quietly he is content; but if they will not his remedy is to cut their throats. But the landlord and the Chinovnik have very similar ideas with regard to the peasant, and they have the Cossack at their back, and do the cutting of throats by deputy. There is very little of international interest in all this, and the world at large has no social nor political lessons to learn therefrom. Up to the present the Chinovnik has had rather the better of it, and the Tsar as its figurehead has been able to thank his Cossacks for having killed off the greater number of his subjects. We are familiar with

the process in China; the peasant finds the land becoming too straight for him, so joins a secret society and rises against the local mandarins. He then proceeds to waste the land and exterminate the industrial classes. The Government alarmed at the condition of the country sends untrained troops to repress the insurrection, and these set to in turn and waste and slaughter all that the insurgents have spared. At last when the land is a desert the officer in charge reports to Peking that the "rebellion" is finished and order restored, and receives the thanks of the Emperor. One of these worthies was a man called CHANG HIEW-CHUNG, a Shensi man, who led his forces into the adjacent province of Szech'wan. He did not love the Szechwanese, so he determined to extirpate them; he killed off a few hundred thousand of the women, and mirthfully, in imitation of the Egyptian KHEPSEN, bethought himself of building a pyramid with their little feet. When the imperial general arrived, so complete had been the work, he found no more to slaughter.

But M. JAURES and Herr BEBEL can do some good even here. The ways of his imperial cousin have a curious fascination for the KAISER, and M. JAURES warns him that the shattering of the Russian Throne would bring down all the other thrones in Europe. This is hardly wise on the Frenchman's part, for the KAISER already has some apprehension to the same effect, and is generally credited with a desire to follow NICOLAS I.'s example and send his troops into Poland. Herr BEBEL is plainly wiser in his generation, and warns him that should he needlessly interfere in his neighbour's affairs, the German proletariat would ask him, is this a struggle into which we can throw ourselves? As a fact the European thrones are quite safe so long as their occupants keep their fingers out of their neighbour's pies. It was precisely this habit of M. LOUBET's which enables him to lay down his temporary throne and retire into private life with the consciousness that he has served his country. M. LOUBET was not born in the purple, but he has taught those who have been the everlasting truth that the true glory of kings is love of country, and that honesty of purpose which teaches them that honourable dealing is a glory above all the dreams of ambition.

PARTNERSHIPS REGISTRATION

(Daily Press, 30th January.)

"The trade of this Colony is honeycombed with fraud and deceit." These words were said, not of Hongkong, but of Singapore, in connection with the promotion of the Bill for Registration of Partnerships, which, after long discussion, was read a second time. The words are too strong to apply to Hongkong, perhaps; but the gentleman who said, "it will be apparent to any one who over some years back has closely watched the course of mercantile and trade affairs here that the methods of conducting these have changed considerably—and one regrets to feel that the change has not been in the direction of higher morality," might have been speaking of Hongkong. There was a good deal of claptrap talked by the Singapore opponents of the principle, some of which will doubtless one day be repeated locally, about unfair imputations, and so on. As a matter of fact, no mercantile community has any right to be thin-skinned in such connection. The late Mr. SPENCER, in the volume of essays published shortly before his death, pointed out very simply a fact that is so obvious that it is overlooked. This, by the way, is no paradox, at all; it is

possible to put a solid object so close to the eye that one sees over and under it while it remains nebulous if not invisible. The ignored fact referred to is that all modern business is conducted on the tacit understanding that the parties thereto are potentially dishonest. Every formal contract is *per se* an implication that its signatories, without it, might not meet their obligations. The law affords further safeguards, which, while by no means uniformly effective, are unanimously accepted as necessary to business. The Registration of Partnerships, properly devised, is merely an extension of an admitted principle; and it is, therefore, sheer nonsense to talk of its "demoralising the Chinese"—who, by the way, despite tradition, are no more to be trusted in a deal than the foreign contractor—or to talk of its "harassing trade," or of its "interference with the liberty of the merchant and trader." The best of our laws is an interference, and all stipulations whatsoever are in the nature of things harassing to any persons liable, either wilfully or involuntarily, to make default. Registration of Partnerships, either general or of Chinese only, will not drive away any business that is worth keeping, in this or any other Colony. Another Singapore objection was that the Government finger was a nuisance in the commercial pie, which is merely another form of the parrot-cry already mentioned. The Bankruptcy Ordinance represents a very big finger in that same pie, and is equally exposed to such an objection. Shifting their ground, and by implication abandoning their noble stand for "the fair fame of the colony," the objectors protested that "a new kind of fraud would arise, a kind of legal fraud." This seems to us more puerile still: since it seems clear that every law ever promulgated can be charged with creating a consequent crime, in the attempt to break or evade it. Indeed, after carefully extracting and weighing all the *cons* brought forward at the southern port we fail to find one with any more weight than the objection that there might be temporary "annoyance and inconvenience;" and that, it will be conceded, does not require serious consideration. In the case of the Singapore Bill, we read that its main idea is that every person who trades under a name which indicates that he is in partnership with another person, or who trades under a name not his own, should be required to register the constitution of the partnership, or, if he be a single individual trading under a fancy name, his true place of business. It will thus be possible for any one who is asked to give credit to ascertain whether the firm is worthy of credit. The bill does not propose to make any alteration in the existing English law, except that the penalty for non-registration is loss of claim to the benefits of partnership; and, on the other hand, inability to be sued. At Hongkong, a Bill securing these points would be hailed with approval; and by none, we imagine, more than the banks, the bankruptcy officials, and the business men who deal largely with Chinese firms. One Singapore gentleman, the Hon. Mr. A. HURZENBACH, held the opinion that it would be difficult to find a case of a man representing himself to be a partner who is not really a partner. Experience teaches us that is not the correct formula to employ; the trouble is that sometimes men are represented by others to be partners, when they are not; the firm prospers on the credit of such representation; and if things go wrong, it is easy for the lawyers to prove that the man (who may have secretly derived profit from the firm) never held himself out as a partner; and of course he denies that he authorised any to do so.

The Singapore Chinese were said to be averse, not to the principle of the Bill, but to its form. It is the principle only that interests this Colony just now. Would the Chinese business people regard it favourably? It has been pointed out that Chinese mercantile guilds are already in a great measure equivalent to such registration; they find partnership records useful for the protection of Chinese creditors. Compulsory registration, even without being penal, would afford similar protection to all. There would be fewer fraudulent bankruptcies; and even if men of straw were registered instead of the real partners, who would be more likely to suffer—the firms that did so, or creditors? Such firms would lose credit; or if they got credit, those who had trusted men of straw could not very well complain if they lost by doing so. At present complaints are frequent and numerous; and the Government ought to reconsider the question very carefully without loss of time. Why wait for Singapore?

CAUSES OF GERMAN PROSPERITY.

(Daily Press, 31st January.)

Very suggestive are the remarks quoted in our Hamburg correspondent's letter published to-day. The VICOMTE, who has written for *la Revue des Deux Mondes* for twenty-six years, and had in addition diplomatic experience, has been an earnest student of history, and is, at 58, a matured thinker. The fact that he is a Frenchman guarantees to a great extent the strict impartiality of his musings on the causes and effects of German prosperity; while it also enables us to make allowance for the *souçon* of exaggeration that might otherwise chill our appreciation of his comments. Le VICOMTE EUGENE MELCHIOR DE VOOGÉ shows no trace of that German pessimism whose expression we quoted only the other day; he regards the German commercial prosperity as very evident; so marked, in fact, that he represents it as already toppling over the acclim line. This is certainly in marked contrast to the backneyed pleas emanating mutually from England and Germany, in the spirit of "Wake up! We are being beaten in the race." The picture of a "brotherly convergence of effort" among all the German industries seems just a little overdrawn, perhaps, and may be put down to the Gallic exuberance already allowed for. The other picture, suggesting the influence of the KAISER as pacemaker for the nation, is better worth contemplation. There is a tendency on the part of those not his subjects to smile at the energy of the Imperial Hustler; and it is possible that the world has been underestimating the value of WILHELM II.'s example. He possesses in his own proper person all that "self-reliance, boldness of enterprise and consciousness of national greatness," which we held out a day or two ago as the supreme desiderata; and which the VICOMTE now mentions as "those rare gifts." We maintain that it is to these rare gifts that England chiefly owes her greatness; it is not so much that the English have enjoyed qualities superior to those of other races, but that they have assumed and believed they had, and this great faith has been followed by great works. The faith that moves mountains, in short, is merely self-confidence. The VICOMTE's "consciousness of national greatness" is, of course, the nationalisation of the individual good conceit. Instead of being ashamed of the "insularism" of which he

is accused, the Briton should therefore hold fast to that which is good, his consciousness of ability to maintain supremacy. But, it may be argued, what of China's arrogance and self-sufficiency; does the case of the Chinese not present an exception? We do not so regard it. The ideal here varies. The brain at the back of all European aggrandisement has been "thinking Imperially," aiming at material conquest and achievement; it has been a good hater as well as a good (self) lover. The Chinese conceit has been intellectual superiority, a profound philosophical contentment accompanied by a contemptuous indifference towards aliens. The VICOMTE notes how a successful war encourages those rare gifts which have been necessary to bring it about; and if his mind had been turned this way, he might have indulged in some prophecy with regard to Japan. Thanks to the plague of croakers that has spread over Britain, the British are rapidly losing those rare gifts which the Germans and the Japanese enjoy. The last British war was said to have been entered upon with a foolish self-confidence. We doubt if it was the old national faith which animated the past and gave birth to "the NELSON touch;" if it was, it must have been seriously diluted and neutralised by those unfortunately not-mute inglorious heroes who criticised and called it reprehensible. If Britain ever falls at the feet of a conqueror its real conqueror will have been this wave of pessimism which has been encouraged, to its everlasting shame, by a "cheap and nasty" press. The terrible reflection cannot be repressed, that a nation's decadence may be started by the strivings of a halfpenny press after originality!

THE VICEROY AND THE CANTONESE.

(Daily Press, 1st February.)

By hook or by crook, says (in effect) the Canton Viceroy, the Canton-Hankow Railway must be constructed, and that with the least possible delay. A very able translation of his latest despatch to the Cantonese Chamber of Commerce appears elsewhere in this issue, from the pen of our well-informed correspondent. The Viceregal decision is one that should start the new year for us with some show of cheerfulness; but alas! all that glitters is not gold, and there are indications that while His Chinese Excellency has a will, he has not yet found a way—or at all events, no way that can be called the right way. The position at present is fairly well understood, and needs but little recapitulation. The concession is now in the hands of the Chinese, and so far as British opinion counts, may be said to have been rescued from the frying pan only to fall into the fire. The line is partly constructed, and the short section in operation has done so well as to promise great things for the whole line whenever it is opened. Some little capital is available to continue the work of construction; but at present there is very little prospect of the rest being forthcoming. The special taxation intended to raise part of it has proved obnoxious, and has confirmed the public unwillingness to invest in a concern so patently under the official thumb. Viceroy SHUM asks for more meetings to consider the business, while he is still persisting in his old-fashioned policy of suppressing free discussion. In the same breath that he bids the members of the Chamber of Commerce convene meetings, he warns them to "abstain from disobedience," by which, we take it, His EXCELLENCY means there must be no more

criticism of his methods. They are to assemble as directed, to say only the things expected of them, and to come to a decision as autocratically dictated by himself. With all his shrewdness and cunning, this official can be very simple at such times as his eyes are covered by hoary prejudices. He would probably be called a "long-horned Tory" if he belonged to another race. In the despatch referred to he seems to be casting round for devices and forlorn hopes like a hard-hunted fox. He endeavours to revive the provincial jealousy which is just as common in China as antipathy toward real foreigners. The Kwangtung men are to bestir themselves lest the Hunan and Hupeh folk should step in and put their faces to shame by doing the work and taking the honour and glory and profits. That would be, he points out, a calamity. He goes on to hint that his obnoxious taxation proposals are as unalterable as the Medean and Persian laws, that what he has said he has said, and that they are lifted out of the field of discussion. That was scarcely a soothing preliminary to his invitation to the people to take up shares. In Japan and Europe, says the voice of the charmer, a railway is promoted in the morning and the capital all subscribed by evening, so convinced are those foreigners of the lucrativeness of such undertakings. This is indeed a desperate remedy for such an anti-foreign official to adopt, the holding up of the foreigner as a shining example to his constituents. More in keeping with his character is his later reference to the foreigner, whom he represents as coveting this "absolute certainty of enormous profits," and whose wicked cleverness is such that His EXCELLENCY "cannot guarantee that foreigners will not be tempted to snatch it away from you." This irresistibly reminds us of a nursery scene, in which a capricious child is induced to take its food by the maternal threat to give it to pussy. Viceroy SHUM's children are not quite so child-like, however. Yes, they reply (or will reply when the Viceroy abandons his habit of locking up those who express their opinion) yes. We realise all that. The railway will be a source of profit, and we know that foreigners are glad to invest their capital in railways. But we know also that foreigners retain control of the concerns they put their money in. They do not have to stand by like jackals while the official lion dines first. You ask us to pay the piper, and you tell us you must choose the tune.

THE NEW CABINET.

(Daily Press, 2nd February.)

Naturally the formation of a new Government at home, especially when accompanied by the almost romantic circumstances under which Mr. BALFOUR resigned office, excites sympathies through the whole British Empire, however slight may be the individual and personal interest involved. With the strife of parties, Liberal or Conservative, we, of course, in this little Island Colony have little to do; but the dispositions of the Cabinet over and above their mere party predilections may very seriously affect us, not only as a Crown Colony, but as intimately affected by the home relations with China. The first is, of course, under the Colonial Office; the second has to say to H. M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In both departments the new Government labours under one grave source of weakness in being avowedly a coalition between the two extreme wings of the party, those who love to call them-

selves Imperialists, and those to whom that name, as in the case of the PRIME MINISTER himself, is a source of loathing. The Cabinet indeed contains within itself those two irreconcilable elements whose internal strife caused the destruction of GLADSTONE's Cabinet in 1894, and which caused the amalgamation of two thitherto opposing elements, the Conservatives and the Liberal Unionists, under whom clinging closely together the government of the Empire has since been carried on. Curiously this combined party has fallen a victim to similar elements of discord within the party itself, though it is remarkable that this new split is in no way coincident with the former differences of the two parties, but is actually at right angles with it. Adroitly the Liberal party took advantage of this divergence of the two sections, and went to the country nominally on the question of Free Trade; actually merely on the interpretation to be placed on the term, and whether the doctrine of accepting a Protection more irksome than anything ever before known was to be accompanied by a process of cheapening and debasing, and accepted as a blessing to the working man at the expense of the nation at large, and destructive in the end to his own interests. It was, of course, easy for the modern school of pinchbeck Cobdenists to pose for the instant as the genuine metal, and this was rendered the easier that the usual swing of the balance between the two parties was according to the experience of over a century actually due. The two superadded have caused a reversion quite as marked, though in the opposite direction, as that that occurred in the General Election of 1895. Of what were the general issues that determined the present election it is as yet premature to speak; the short telegraphic summaries which are all we have to depend on are by no means clear or consistent, and even if they were, it is by no means certain that either party has as yet hit on the right solution. Returning, however, to the point from which we originally started, it is plain that as concerns Hongkong, more especially in connection with the development of our interests in China, the two most interesting figures are the two comparatively new men who represent the Colonial and Foreign Offices respectively. We use the term "comparatively new" advisedly, because neither Lord ELGIN nor Sir EDWARD GREY are in the wider sense unknown. Lord ELGIN was appointed during Lord ROSEBURY's short administration in 1894 Viceroy of our greatest dependency, India, but though appointed under a Liberal Government, the greater portion of his administration was passed under the Unionist lead of Lord SALISBURY, and though not one of the great administrators who have set their mark indelibly on the great charge committed to their care, Lord ELGIN was able to retire with enhanced honour and reputation from a difficult post requiring the exercise of some of the highest qualities of statecraft. In his new office he will succeed such able and sympathetic predecessors as Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Mr. LYTTELTON, and though to a certain extent the difficulties of the post will be thereby lessened, in others the comparison will tend to show any personal weaknesses that may be inherent in the man. Sir EDWARD GREY, of course, stands on a pinnacle of his own; he has always more than the other members of his party claimed the right of his own convictions, and refused, when in the office of Under Secretary, to be led blindly even by his exacting chief, the late Mr. GLADSTONE; and in the present instance

has boldly announced his intention of carrying on his office on the lines laid down by Lord LANSDOWNE; he is in fact the hope of the Imperialist section of the present Cabinet; but it is, of course, too early to judge how much, or how little, this may portend. On the whole, it is likely that, notwithstanding the presence in the Government of a wing whose avowed wishes ally them with the Little England party, the outside relations of the country will not undergo, for some time at least, any very marked change. The bolder and more straightforward policy pursued by the Unionist party when in office undeniably coincided with the wishes of the country at large. This was most conspicuous with respect to the alliance with France; France, for all the little causes of disunion which now and then cropped up, has always been a favourite in England; and the attempt has always been made by the people at large to minimise any little cause of friction. On the whole, the French people have gladly responded, and both have learned by experience how manifold more numerous were the occasions when both interests coincided than when they clashed. The alliance of France as naturally brings us into pleasant lines with the other Latin peoples, and this without requiring any sacrifice of their independence of feeling on the part of any. In one respect, and that the most important in such an understanding, all are agreed, and that is in the overpowering desire for peace. Russia is momentarily stilled by the course of events. What affects her most at the present juncture is the necessity for putting in order her finances; this can hardly be brought about unless by some amelioration of her internal affairs, and all this tends to the same end. Whatever, then, may be the sentiments of individual members, on the whole the situation tends towards a continuation of our late policy, and this is probably the real reason that, notwithstanding a nominal reversal of the political aspect at home, which in ordinary circumstances would betoken a grave political danger, the change is looked upon without any grave symptoms of apprehension. England has within the present generation passed through far more dangerous crises, and there is little reason to apprehend that the sun of her prestige has as yet come within any measurable distance of setting.

A QUESTION OF GENERAL INTEREST.

(Daily Press, 3rd February.)

A re good Bridge-players good for anything else? That is the question which, with various answers, was echoed from Great Britain by a recent mail delivery. Put in a less blunt phraseology, "Does aptitude for card-playing denote general intelligence?" the question is said by Mr. BASIL TOZER in *The Monthly Review* (London: JOHN MURRAY) to have evoked "a controversy almost as fierce as if some vital point to do with politics or religion had been broached." It prompted him to write to a number of prominent people, asking for their opinions on the matter. Mr. F. G. AFLALO, editor of the *Encyclopædia of Sport*, very fairly admitted that he had given up card playing "before the modern cult of Bridge fell heavily on the land," and that it was therefore easy "to condemn a weakness which one is free of." But if his opinion were really wanted, it was that good card players were not necessarily of more than average intelligence. Many clever people had been known for their devotion to cards; but most certainly

cleverness at Bridge was not a symptom of cleverness in other matters. His experience of Society had endowed him with the impression that the young woman addicted to Bridge was

"a hard featured, calculating, nervous, nail-biting product of ultra-emanicipation, and her 'general intelligence' is in all probability on a level with that of the kohl-eyed playthings that eat sweetmeats in Eastern harems and peer out on the world of freedom through barred windows. She has no longer any taste for music, or the play, or the picture-gallery. The mid-day sun, like the mid-night lamp, finds her staring at the cards or thinking of them. Dinner, which, in a more cultured and less hurried age, was a period of pleasant nutrition and brilliant conversation, is to her an interlude of boredom, through which she sustains herself only with dreams of the winning hand that will presently be hers."

There were many others, politicians, and so on, who answered, but objected to the publication of their names. One gentleman wrote, "In my opinion a man who cannot play Bridge or Poker must be next door to a fool," to which Mr. TOZER makes the delightful repartee, "It is gratifying to know that he is not a neighbour." There were quite as many who replied that want of aptitude at cards denotes lack of intelligence generally. Dr. MACNAMARA, M.P., considers that to be a good Bridge-player denotes merely a specially retentive memory, and the faculty of such close attention as excludes every other thought for the time being. He thinks that these two qualities may be present in an individual who does not deserve to be regarded as "generally intelligent." It is rather curious that such an authority should overlook the general, or rather universal, importance of the second quality named. That kind of exclusive attention, which is as rare at the card-table as it is at the desk, and which was suggested by MAX NORDAU as the major symptom of absolute sanity, is the "capacity for taking pains" which amounts to genius; and ensures success in almost any undertaking the fortunate possessor may essay. It is probably not enjoyed in completion by more than three per cent. of the human race. In Buddhism it is the ideal aimed at by those who would attain Nirvana; and in business it should be the policy of all who hope to make their mark. Mr. J. H. YOXALL, M.P., is inclined to think there must be "a special faculty for games," which to any cerebrologist must sound nonsensical. He also credits the clever Bridge-player with the mental qualities of an able General, or military strategist. Which again is nonsense. On the whole, we esteem most the opinion of an anonymous "professor," who believes that anyone with the normal complement of brains can become a good Bridge-player; and that

"The reason so many men and women of intelligence play cards so badly is that card-playing doesn't interest them" sufficiently to "bring themselves to concentrate their attention upon a game of cards for any length of time, if for any time at all." It is so with everything else, we imagine. No man devotes hard study to billiards, unless he hopes to become a professional "crack," or has nothing else in which to interest himself. It is, in short, like Bridge, "not worth while." Where the heart is, there will the mind be also; and the most eminent authority on Bridge, numismatics, or philately, might just as easily have become a professor of biology, a specialist in science, or anything else. Ordinary ability plus extraordinary application equals more than is generally realised in any field of endeavour.

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

The recently formed Hongkong Horticultural Society is to be congratulated on the success attending its inaugural efforts, the first annual exhibition under its auspices being opened on Feb. 1st in the Botanical Gardens and continued Feb. 2. A prettier site—round the fountain—could scarcely have been selected and both within and without the enclosure visitors looked upon nature in its fairest form. Those associated with the Society have been fortunate in enlisting considerable enthusiasm and support, exhibitors coming forward in greater numbers than was expected, while the quality and nature of the displays were also much better than was anticipated.

The entries, which numbered 420, were fairly evenly distributed, most classes being well filled and only in two or three were there no exhibits. Considered generally, the quality of both flowers and vegetables reached a very high level, and in some instances the judges found a difficulty in making a selection. However, Sir Francis Piggott, and Messrs. Tutchner and D. W. Craddock discharged their duties admirably and no fault was found with their decisions. Roses were a very fine collection, and pot plants were exceptionally strong.

A noteworthy feature of the show was the Mauritius and Hongkong Economic Collections which were fully explained in the hand-book and attracted considerable interest. The Hongkong Hotel also sent a very pretty collection of pot plants.

Happily, the event was favoured with brilliant weather and visitors were numerous, especially in the afternoon, when the band of the 2nd Batt. West Kent Regiment attended and discoursed pleasing selections.

Prizes were given by the Society, H. E. the Governor, H. E. the General Officer Commanding, Sir Francis Piggott, Sir Paul Chater, Mrs. Hatton, Mrs. S. T. Dunn, Mr. Ho Kom-tong, Supt. Band F. Department, Mr. Chau Sin-ki, Mr. Fung Wa-chun, Mr. J. Barton, and "Old Adam" through the *Daily Press*.

The prize awarded by ballot—ticket holders writing their selection on a counterfoil—for the best table decoration went to Mrs. Seth by popular consent, while Mr. Chau Lup-chee secured the distinction of having it proclaimed that his was the neatest garden in the Colony, and Mrs. Noma had the honour of gaining the prize for the best arrangement of flowers and foliage according to the rules of Japanese art.

The list of officials managing the Society is as under:—

Patrons, His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B.; and Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G.; President, His Honour Sir Francis Taylor Piggott, Kt.; General Committee—Mr. J. Barton, Miss E. Bowley, Mrs. Brewin, Mr. D. W. Craddock, Mr. A. Denison, Mr. S. T. Dunn, Mr. E. Osborne, Mrs. Seth, Mr. L. Gibbs, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Flower Show Sub-Committee—Mr. J. Barton, (Chairman), Miss E. M. Bowley, Mrs. Dickson, Mr. L. Gibbs, Mrs. Hatton, Mrs. L. A. M. Johnston, and Mrs. Seth, with Mr. S. T. Dunn, Honorary Secretary.

Appended is the prize-list:—

PLANTS FROM PEAK GARDENS ONLY.

Class I—6 Annuals—1, Mr. E. H. Sharp; 2, Mr. F. Salinger.

Class II—3 Flowering Plants—1, Mrs. Johnston; 2, Mrs. Turner.

Class III—2 Dahlias—No entries.

Class IV—Pot of Violets—1, Peak Club; 2, Mrs. Johnson.

Class V—Pot of Mignonette—1, Mrs. Salinger.

Class VI—3 Pots of Nasturtium—1, Mrs. Dickson; 2, Mrs. Salinger.

PLANTS FROM ANY PRIVATE GARDEN.

Class VII—6 Annuals—1, Mrs. Ho Tung; 2, Mr. Chau Lup-chee.

Class VIII—3 Flowering Plants—1, Mr. Chau Lup-chee; 2, Mrs. Brewin.

Class IX—3 Roses—1, Mr. Brewin; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Class X—2 Dahlias—1, Mr. Mody; 2, Dr. Jordan.

Class XI—Pot of Pansies—1, Mr. Mody; 2, Mrs. Dickson.

Class XII—Pot of Violets—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mrs. Ho Tung.

Class XIII—Pot of Mignonette—1, Mrs. Ho Tung; 2, Mr. Chau Lup-chee.

PLANTS IN POTS (OPEN TO ALL).

Class XIV—6 Annuals—1, Mr. Kwong Chi-un; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Class XV—3 Foliage Plants—1, Mr. Wing Tson-un; 2, Miss Loureiro.

Class XVI—3 Flowering Plants—1, Miss Loureiro; 2, Mr. Fat Ki-un.

Class XVII—3 Geraniums—1, Dr. Jordan; 2, Mr. Ho Kom-tong.

Class XVIII—3 Camellias—1, Mrs. Ho Tung.

Class XIX—2 Dahlias—1, Mr. Fat Ki-un; 2, Mrs. Ho Tung.

Class XX—2 Asters—1, Sir Paul Chater.

Class XXI—1 Pink Carnation or Sweet William—1, Mr. Kwong Chi-un; 2, Mr. Mody.

Class XXII—1 Mr. Ho Kom-tong; 2, Dr. Jordan.

Class XXIII—Pot of Pansies—No exhibits.

Class XXV—1 Stump or Rockwork—1, Mrs. Ho Tung; 2, Mr. Ho Kom-tong.

Class XXVI—Figure Plant—1, Mr. Kwong Chi-un; 2, Mr. San Fong-un.

Class XXVII—6 Ferns—1, Dr. Jordan; 2, Mrs. Ho Tung.

Class XXVIII—Pot of Violets—1, Mrs. Ho Tung; 2, Mr. Ho Kom-tong.

Class XXIX—Pot of Mignonette—1, Mrs. Ho Tung; 2, Mr. Ho Kom-tong.

CUT FLOWERS (OPEN TO ALL).

Class XXX—4 Blooms (any variety)—1, Sir Paul Chater.

Class XXX a—4 Bunches of cut flowers, each of a distinct variety—1, Ladies' Recreation Club.

Class XXXI—6 Buttonholes (3 ladies', 3 gentlemen's)—1 (equal), Miss Loureiro and Mrs. Dickson.

Class XXXII—Hand Bouquet—1, Mrs. Dickson.

Class XXXIII—Table decoration (decided by ballot)—Mrs. Seth.

VEGETABLES FROM PRIVATE GARDENS.

Class XXXIV—6 kinds of Vegetables—1, Mrs. Rodger; 2, Mrs. Jones Hughes.

Class XXXV—2 Heads of Celery—1, Mrs. Rodger; 2, Mrs. Lewis.

Class XXXVI—6 Beet Roots—1, Mrs. Dickson; 2, Mrs. Jones Hughes.

Class XXXVII—6 Carrots—1, Mrs. Dickson; 2, Mrs. Griffin.

Class XXXVIII—2 Cauliflowers—1, Mrs. Deacon; 2, Mr. Mody.

Class XXXIX—2 Cabbages—1, Mrs. Deacon; 2, Mrs. Dickson.

Class XL—2 Lettuces—1, Mr. Mody; 2, Mrs. Brewin.

Class XLI—50 Pods of Peas—1, Mrs. Ho Tung; 2, Mrs. Rodger.

Class XLII—50 Pods of French Beans—1, Mrs. Lewis; 2, Mrs. Dickson.

Class XLIII—25 Potatoes—1, Mrs. Lewis.

Class XLIV—6 Turnips—1, Mrs. Griffin.

Class XLV—12 Onions—No exhibits.

Class XLVI—25 Radishes—1, Mrs. Deacon; 2, Mr. Mody.

Class XLVII—12 Tomatoes—1, Mrs. Rodger; 2, Mrs. Lewis.

Class XLVIII—2 Vegetable Marrows—1, Mrs. Deacon; 2, Mrs. Dickson.

VEGETABLES FROM CHINESE MARKET GARDENS.

Class XLIX—2 Heads of Celery—1, Mr. Ho Tung.

Class L—6 Beet Roots—1, Mr. Ho Tung; 2, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LI—6 Carrots—1, Mr. Ho Tung; 2, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LII—2 Cauliflowers—1, Castle Peak Farm; 2, Mr. Ho Tung.

Class LIII—2 Cabbages—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LIV—2 Lettuces—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LV—50 Pods of Peas—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LVI—50 Pods of French Beans—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LVII—25 Potatoes—No exhibits.

Class LVIII—6 Turnips—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LIX—25 Radishes—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LX—50 Brussels Sprouts—No exhibits.
Class LXI—12 Tomatoes—1, Castle Peak Farm.

FRUITS.

Class LXII—Collection of fruits grown in Hongkong—1, Mr. Chau Lup-chee.

GENERAL EXHIBITS.

Class LXIII—Best exhibit of Colonial Vegetable Products of any kind including plants, fruits, preserves, etc.—1, Castle Peak Farm.

Class LXIV—Best collection of flowers grown and exhibited in a window-box or verandah-box by any residents' son or daughter not exceeding 15 years of age—1, Felix Ellis.

Class LXV—Best exhibit of vegetable products from any Treaty Port of China—1 Mr. Leung Hing-yip.

Class LXVI—Best flowering plant from any Police Station in the New Territory—No exhibits.

Class LXVII—Best group of flowering and foliage plants—1, Mr. Ho Kom-tung.

Class LXVIII—Best collection of vegetables from Private Gardens—1, Mr. Babington.

Class LXIX—Best three flowering or foliage plants in pots open to N.C.O.'s and Men of the Garrison of Hongkong—1, Sergt. Allen, R.G.A.

Class LXX—Best arrangement of cut flowers and foliage according to the rules of Japanese art—No exhibits.

Class LXXI—Neatest Garden in the Colony—1, Mr. Chau Lup-chee; 2, Mr. Ho Tung.

Class LXXII—Best group of China New Year Plants—1, Tsing Lun-un.

At five o'clock the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by H.E. the Governor in the presence of a large assembly.

Sir FRANCIS PIGGOTT (the President) said—I have to ask His Excellency to present the prizes.

His EXCELLENCY then handed the prizes to the winners, at the conclusion of which he said—I think the show is a very satisfactory one for a first start. I hope next year it will be still better (applause). We are indebted to Sir Francis Piggott, Mr. Barton, and the other gentlemen of the committee for the excellent arrangements they have made which have contributed to the success of the show (applause).

Sir FRANCIS PIGGOTT—I am sure you wish to express your thanks to His Excellency for presiding this afternoon. In name of the visitors and also in name of the Society, I beg to thank you, sir, very heartily for your presence this afternoon (applause).

This terminated the formal proceedings and the visitors continued their inspection of the show.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on January 31st, all the Members being present with the exception of the Hon. Mr. R. Shewan.

After Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., had taken the oath and assumed his seat, His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council and moved a resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Ho Kai, and was passed unanimously. The remarks of His Excellency and Dr. Ho Kai are appended.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

His EXCELLENCY said—Gentlemen, It has been my sad duty to summon you here to-day to invite you to pass a resolution on the occasion of the death of His Majesty the King of Denmark. Christian IX., born the year before our late Queen of beloved memory, was the oldest of reigning sovereigns. For forty-three years he ruled over the Danes, a people connected with the people of Great Britain by ancient strains of blood and more closely by the bonds that unite the Royal families of the United Kingdom and of Denmark. It is appropriate that from Hongkong, as from other Colonies where Queen Alexandra is held in such affectionate esteem, should come expressions of sympathy at the death of Her Majesty's father, and I submit for signification of your acceptance the following resolution:—

"That the Legislative Council of Hongkong desire to humbly express the sorrow with which the intelligence of the death of the Queen's father has been received and their deep sympathy

with Their Majesties the King and Queen in their bereavement."

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai said—Sir,—With profound respect and sympathy I rise to second the resolution which Your Excellency has just so feelingly proposed to this Council. We have been so long accustomed to regard the persons of Their Most Gracious Majesties the King and Queen with affection and esteem that whatever affects them in the smallest degree is sure to call forth a corresponding feeling on our part. On the present occasion, Their Majesties' recent sad bereavement is felt by all British subjects throughout the Colony with a keen sense of sorrow and sympathy. And the resolution before us is but a humble expression of that sentiment of regret and sympathy. I beg, therefore, to second the resolution.

HONGKONG ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

SCOTCH CONCERT.

It was only to be expected that the Scotch community in Hongkong would not let the 25th of January pass without in some form commemorating the birthday of their national bard, but this year there were very good reasons for not holding the celebration on Jan. 25th and so the concert, arranged by the St. Andrew's Society, took place on January 27th in St. George's Hall. There was a good attendance—though near the platform were a number of empty seats labelled reserve—H. E. Major General and Mrs. Villiers Hatton and the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Gershom Stewart were present. The concert, with one exception, was thoroughly Scotch, the place of honour being accorded the lyrics and ballads of Robert Burns, whose memory is being kept green by "Scots the warl o'er" in various ways at this time, and while the programme gave undoubted satisfaction one could not fail to note the omission of a song which is associated with all Burns celebrations. We refer to the one where the poet sings of his own birth, "There was a lad was born in Kye." However, there was little to call for criticism in the concert, which afforded genuine pleasure to all who were present and to many recalled memories of "auld lang syne."

The band of the 2nd West Kent Regiment opened the programme with "Reminiscences of Scotland." Beginning most appropriately with the national song "Scots wha hae," they played a delightful series of Scotch airs, both martial and sentimental, in the most artistic manner. They also drew upon the Gaelic muse and introduced a very effective imitation of bagpipe accompaniment, the effect of which was to inspire an occasional "hooch" from a fervid Scot. That, in the early part of the evening, must indeed be regarded as a high tribute of appreciation. "Auld Lang Syne" was a grand culmination to the selections, and the applause which ensued was extremely enthusiastic. The male choir next occupied the stage. It was composed of Messrs. L. Broughall, P. Dow, and E. Paine, first tenors; Messrs. A. J. Darby, G. H. Edwards, Dr. C. Forsyth, Messrs. L. D. Philpot and H. S. Wynne, second tenors; Messrs. J. D. Auld, F. Austin, F. A. Biden, W. E. Leckie, J. A. Young, and W. J. Terill, first basses; Messrs. W. Armstrong, Bullock, A. G. Roberts, and F. W. Warre, second basses; with Mr. Geo. Grimble as accompanist. They essayed very successfully Sir Walter Scott's "Hail to the Chief," and were heartily applauded. Mr. W. E. Leckie scored a decided success with his rendering of "Mary Morison," a simple straightforward air sung in a most effective manner. He was encored, but contented himself with bowing his acknowledgments. Mrs. David Wood selected two of Burns' finest songs for her contribution. Unfortunately the accompanist and the artiste found themselves in disagreement in the first, "John Anderson, my Jo," with the inevitable result that the vocalist suffered and the song was spoiled. A happier state of affairs prevailed in the second, and "Ca' the ewes to the knowes" was faultlessly rendered. A departure from the printed programme brought Messrs. Broughall, Baxter and Gow on the platform, and of their performance it would hardly be possible to speak too highly. "Willie brewed a

peck o' maun," always a favourite, was sung in a manner which would enhance its popularity. The baccchanalian eccentricities of "the three merry boys" were acted with admirable effect, and the performance of the trio was regarded as one of the best of the evening. A violin solo, "Legende," by Mrs. Ough, proved very acceptable, and Mr. J. D. Auld revealed a fine tenor voice when he sang "Macgregor's Gathering," and the "Braes o' Balquither," given as an encore. Mrs. A. G. Gordon, always a *persona grata* at Hongkong concerts, seemed to surpass all her previous efforts on Saturday night. She sang "Auld Robin Gray" in a manner which brought out all the pathos of Lady Lindsay's famous song, and it appealed so strongly to her auditors that they insisted on her re-appearance, when she obliged with "Here's to the year that's awa." A part song "Ye banks and braes," was not quite faultless, and recalled the advice of a writer who said it was a mistake to "sing a Scottish song as if it were a mixture of English and a foreign language."

Again the band of the West Kents, under Bandmaster McKelvie, stirred the audience to the greatest enthusiasm when they prefaced the second part of the programme with the fantasia "Scotland's Pride." The concluding air, "Will ye no come back again," had to be repeated before the audience were satisfied. "Scots wha hae" was well rendered by the male choir, and Mrs. Ough met with such success in her playing of two violin solos that her re-appearance was demanded. Mr. A. D. Galloway soon gained the favour of his hearers with his expressive rendering of "The deil's awa wi' the exciseman," and he also was recalled, singing "Maggie Lauder" with rare effect. The sweet contralto voice of Mrs. Wood was again heard to advantage in "Gala Water," and "Ae fond kiss," sung as an encore, while Mrs. Gordon repeated her earlier success in "Lochnagar," complying with a recall by giving Lady Nairne's "Auld Hoose." The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the choir, joined in by the audience, brought the programme to an end, and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem. Undoubtedly the concert was most enjoyable, and the Society are to be congratulated on their welcome contribution to the public entertainment.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

At a meeting of the seatholders and church body of St. John's Cathedral, held at the City Hall on the 29th January, the retiring body, which comprised His Lordship the Bishop of Victoria, the Senior Chaplain (the Rev. F. T. Johnson), Hon. Captain L. A. W. Barnes Lawrence, Mr. W. Armstrong, Mr. H. W. Slade, Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Mr. A. Beyer, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. J. Whittall, Hon. Treasurer, was re-elected, and Mr. J. C. Peter was re-appointed auditor.

Mr. WHITTALL, Hon. Treasurer, stated that the year closed with a balance of \$450 less than last year, but in view of the necessary special expenditure, this could not be considered other than satisfactory.

The Rev. F. T. JOHNSON referred to the lamented deaths of the late organist of the Cathedral, Mr. A. G. Ward, and of Mr. H. White, who was for ten years prior to his resignation vergier of the Cathedral. Mr. Ward had been over eight and a-half years in charge of the organ at the Cathedral, and was a most popular man in a wide circle of friends, and very shortly a memorial tablet would be erected in the Cathedral to his memory. In conclusion, the speaker moved that very cordial votes of thanks be extended to the clergy who had during the past year so kindly assisted in the services of the Cathedral, especially to the Rev. Mr. Jenkins, whose services had been much in request, as well as to the members of the church body, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Beyer, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Whittall, Mr. Denman Fuller, organist, Mr. Peter, auditor, and to Mr. Chapman, who so kindly presided at the organ during the period between the departure of the late Mr. A. G. Ward for Shanghai, and the arrival of Mr. Denman Fuller, the new organist.

HONGKONG ODD VOLUMES' SOCIETY.

LECTURE BY HON. DR. CLARK.

At the City Hall on Feb. 2nd the Hon. Dr. Clark discoursed in an attractive manner on "Law in the days of Dickens, as illustrated by quotations from his works." The lecture, given under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes' Society, was listened to with manifest appreciation by a good audience.

SIR HENRY BERKELEY, who presided, introduced Dr. Clark, and remarked that while it was risky to prophesy before the event he felt safe in assuring those present of an interesting lecture that evening.

The Hon. Dr. Clark began his lecture by remarking that it would come as a surprise to many to learn that the progress made during the Victorian era in the administration of that most conservative of all professions, the Law, was perhaps even more marvellous than the advance made in science during the same period. As "literature" was the watchword of the Society, he felt that he could not better illustrate the changes that had taken place in our legal institutions than by quotations from the author who, he was sure, was known and beloved by all of them. He was glad that Dickens said very little about the criminal laws of his day, although when he was born in 1812 there were considerably more than 100 crimes punishable by death, such, for instance, as stealing from the person anything greater in value than a shilling, stealing from bleaching grounds fraudulently personating a Greenwich pensioner, forging bank notes, and so on. The execution of criminals in public was not abolished until 1868. In 1849 Dickens was present at the public execution of Mr. and Mrs. Manning, which was viewed by a dense crowd of men and women, boys and girls, whose behaviour was so revolting that he denounced the terrible scene in eloquent terms in a series of letters to the *Times*. Continuing, the lecturer said he was concerned more particularly with the change in civil law, and remarked that there was perhaps no author whose writings had had such a pronounced influence upon the administration of civil law, particularly the law of equity, than Dickens. Dealing first with the evils and injustices that prevailed in the olden times in the administration of estates, Dr. Clark read quotations from "Bleak House" in illustration, and pointed out that by the passing of the Judicature Acts of 1875 we had now an equity of jurisdiction which was as simple and as straightforward as that of the Common Law Courts. Turning to the treatment of debtors in the days of Dickens and contrasting it with what obtained at the present time, he read the novelist's descriptions of London prisons, related Pickwick's experiences in Fleet Prison, and mentioned that imprisonment for debt was not abolished until 1869, the year before Dickens breathed his last. He thought there could be little doubt that Dickens' graphic pen did much to bring about that greatly needed reform in our laws, which substituted bankruptcy for imprisonment. It was interesting to remember that the Romans substituted bankruptcy for the arrest of the person of the debtor in the time of Julius Caesar, so that the English jurists of Dickens' days were nearly 1900 years behind the times and no doubt congratulated themselves on their hoary conservatism. It was not to be supposed that bankruptcy was unknown in English law until 1869, and he recalled the scene in "Nicholas Nickleby" when the brokers entered the Mantallinni establishment, but the Bankruptcy Court was only open to traders, professional men and farmers. Artisans were not traders and should they become bankrupt were regarded almost as criminals and had to languish in a debtors' prison until someone paid their debts. Another legal phase which had undergone extensive transformation since the days of Dickens was the separate property of married women. In those days a wife could acquire no personal property, could not make contracts, and all her earnings belonged absolutely to her husband. That was the old Common Law conception of the unity of man and wife, the wife's identity being completely absorbed in that of her husband, who could by will even deprive her of the custody of their children after his death. This,

however, was altered by the Married Women's Property Acts of 1870, 1874, 1882 and 1893. She can now sue and be sued in her own name, enter into contracts, and has absolute control of her own earnings. Proceeding, Dr. Clark read an account of the circumstances which led to the famous trial—*Bardell v. Pickwick*, and commented on the fact that in that case neither the plaintiff nor the defendant were called as witnesses. In those days the law thought it impossible for any one involved in a law suit, either on the one side or the other, to tell the truth, even under oath, and it was not until 1852, or 16 years after "the Pickwick Papers" were written, that interested parties were allowed to give evidence in civil suits, while only as recently as 1890 it was not possible for prisoners to give evidence on their own behalf. The change was gradually brought about on much the same principle as one tries a new physic first on the dog—at least that was the popular supposition; for about this time the new County Courts were established, and it was resolved to let those courts hear interested parties. If it was proved that the experiment worked well then it would be extended to the higher courts. The results were most successful and in 1851 Lord Brougham carried his famous Act against the opposition of the Lord Chancellor and many of the legal bigwigs. In conclusion, he referred to Dickens' association with the Bar, and declared he would no doubt have been a great lawyer had he not been a greater writer.

Sir Henry Berkeley proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was heartily accorded.

HONGKONG CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB.

OPENING OF NEW CLUB HOUSE.

The Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club celebrated an interesting event in their rather short history on the 27th January by the formal opening of their new premises at Praya East. Naturally the occasion brought out a fairly large attendance of members and friends, so that there was quite a numerous assembly to acclaim Mrs. Francis Clark, wife of the Commodore, when she performed the opening ceremony.

The club house itself was the subject of expressions of appreciation and congratulations to the members. Situated almost in front of No. 2 Police Station and built in bungalow fashion, the structure is very neat and compact. A movable partition marks off the dressing room, while the convenience required by yachtsmen are provided—there being a loft for storing sails, lockers, etc., and in all respects the club house is admirably adapted for its purposes. It is raised from the ground a few feet, and on descending the steps at the rear one notes with approval the fine flag staff with its signalling apparatus. The whole, it should be added, is enclosed by a wooden railing.

Among those present on Saturday afternoon were Hon. Dr. and Mrs. Francis Clark, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Hands, Mrs. Haxton, Mrs. Hill, Messrs. E. M. Hazeland (vice-commodore), J. J. Stubbings (secretary), J. Reidie, F. Allen, W. A. Crake, F. C. Casey, H. Gidley, E. F. Gibson, F. Howell, A. W. Hill, W. H. Woolley, W. Davison, A. A. Souza, R. Hudson, J. Hands, M. McIvor, A. McKirdy, E. J. Mengens, J. W. Osborne, G. Taylor, and others.

Mr. Hazeland called on Mrs. Clark, who had kindly consented to open the new club house.

Mrs. Clark said—Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Corinthian Yacht Club is a very young one, having been formed as recently as the latter part of 1904, but I believe it already boasts a membership of over 120. The Committee are to be congratulated upon having provided you with such comfortable quarters within the brief space of 15 months. I am told that the aim of the club is to provide sport for a less expensive class of boats than the 24 raters and in this they have succeeded, by the establishment of a one-design class rating at about 21 with a sail area limited to 250 sq. ft., which can be built for less than one-fifth the cost of the 24 raters. The popularity of the club has necessitated the starting of a handicap or cruiser class for the encouragement of those

members who own boats of other designs, and races for both classes are arranged at frequent intervals throughout the season. I dare say that not a few yachtsmen's wives feel that they are a little neglected when their husbands devote almost every holiday to sailing, but one must remember that there is no healthier form of recreation than this exposure to the sun, and the wind and the salt air, and that if we see less of them on this account they make up for it on their return by that sweet contentment which is the true index of a "mens sana in corpore sano." (Applause). There is also another feature on which wives may well congratulate themselves, and that is that Hongkong has one of the safest harbours in the world for yachting, and although one may often see boats quite near to one another sailing with diverse winds, yet they generally manage to reach their destination in time, for as the Irishman says "It's an ill wind that blows nowhere" (laughter). Before declaring the club house open I have an announcement to make. It is that Dr. and Mrs. Jordan have kindly offered to give two prizes to be arranged for competition by the club later (applause). I have now much pleasure in declaring the club house open (applause).

The flags on the flag staff were then hoisted amid the applause of the members, after which Mr. Hazeland presented a beautiful bouquet to Mrs. Clark, who made a suitable response.

The cup presented by the Commodore (Hon. Dr. Clark) was then presented by Mrs. Clark to Mr. Hands.

Tea was dispensed and a race for ten one design boats for prizes presented by boat-owning members followed, the boats being managed by boys. The first prize went to the boat owned by Mr. McIvor.

HONGKONG Y.M.C.A.

The annual meeting of the European Department of the Hongkong Young Men's Christian Association was held on Feb. 2 in the Association Rooms, Alexandra Buildings. The report of the retiring committee of management was accepted. It showed that the affairs of the Association were in a satisfactory condition and that the various activities, social, religious, athletic and educational were progressing. During the year 105 new members were received and 99 members had resigned or left the Colony. The present membership is 161. The report also stated that a much larger number of members were making use of the rooms than formerly, and that the lectures, library, reading and games rooms were becoming more attractive to numbers of young men. The religious work was becoming strengthened and its influence was more widely felt. Football, tennis, walking, and during the summer bathing, afforded healthful exercise. The financial condition of the Association was encouraging. There was a debit balance of about \$600, but this amount was more than covered.

The following gentlemen were elected as a Committee of Management for 1906:—Messrs. P. H. Holyoak, H. Hursthouse, G. Piercy, C. S. N. Williams, J. Dyer Ball, G. E. Woodward, E. E. Cocks, G. Searle, N. Wilson, P. L. Brown, E. C. Lewis, W. E. Craig, and H. Sykes.

HONGKONG CHINESE Y.M.C.A.

DONATION TOWARDS A DORMITORY AND CLUB HOUSE.

The annual meeting of this Association was held on Jan. 30 in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, 26, Des Voeux Road Central, Mr. F. C. Mow Fung, Chairman of the Chinese Branch, presiding. Mr. C. H. Lee, the recording secretary, read the annual report, which we are obliged to hold over until to-morrow.

Mr. C. C. Rutledge, the acting general secretary, reported on the progress of the general work of the Association, and announced that friends in England, Scotland, and America have given the Hongkong Association \$30,000 to be used in erecting a dormitory and club house near Queen's College for the use of the students of that and other schools, under the direction of the Association, provided an equal amount is contributed by the people of Hongkong for the

purpose of buying a site and furnishings for the building. It was also reported that 100 Chinese employees of the Kowloon Docks have petitioned the Association to form a branch at Hinghom.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, January 29th

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

NOT AN EARLY RISER.

Mak Yach-ting sued Chan Hon-kai for \$896. Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for plaintiff. On the case being called,

Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) said—I have been retained by defendant, but have not received any instructions regarding this case; I expect them any moment now. If your Lordship could allow this case to stand over—

Mr. Grist—I will take judgment with a stay of execution and if my friend is instructed the case can go into the next list.

The Puisse Judge—Well, prove your case.

Mr. Grist—I would rather not; I know nothing about the defendant; he might run away.

Mr. Hett—He is a large property owner in the Colony.

Mr. Bonnar—He has been sued for his rates (laughter).

At this stage a clerk handed Mr. Hett a piece of paper, upon perusal of which Mr. Hett said—I have been instructed to ask for an adjournment.

The Puisse Judge—Who instructed you, your clerk?

Mr. Hett—I wrote to the defendant, but he does not get out of bed until three o'clock.

The Puisse Judge—Well, fix the case for the morning, then (laughter). Can he get up early for once?

Mr. Hett thought he could, and the hearing of the action was fixed accordingly.

Tuesday, January 30th

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

NOT AN EARLY RISER.

The case in which Mak Yach-ting sued Chan Hon-kai for \$826 again came before his Honour. Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) for defendant. The hearing had been adjourned from the previous day, when some amusement was created by Mr. Hett stating that his client did not get up till 3 o'clock. Mr. Hett said it would be better for Mr. Grist to prove his case, and this being done judgment was given for plaintiff with costs.

CLAIM OF AN OFFICER'S SERVANT.

Kamar Deen, of No. 57, Elgin Road, Kowloon, sued Lieutenant C. E. Borton, of the 129th Baluchis, to recover the sum of \$185, being as to \$135 for nine months' wages due, and \$50 for return passage to India.

Mr. A. J. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) appeared for the plaintiff, the defendant being unrepresented.

Kamar Deen said he was engaged three years ago at Kurachi by the defendant as a syce; two months later he was promoted to the position of personal attendant. The defendant agreed to pay him 15 rupees per month as syce, but on his promotion increased the amount to 20 rupees. When he arrived in Hongkong he was to receive \$15 per month and rations, and \$5 for clothing.

His Lordship—Did defendant say anything about paying your passage back?

Plaintiff—He said he would pay it when he discharged me.

Continuing, witness said he could not remember when he arrived here. Defendant paid him \$20, and later \$10 and \$5. He received the \$10 as cumshaw three months ago when defendant went on a shooting expedition some 200 miles beyond Canton. The \$5 was an advance for which he asked. When he arrived

in Hongkong he had \$4, and that accounted for his not pressing for payment sooner. When he asked for payment defendant said he was expecting some money from home, and on receipt of it would settle up.

His Lordship—Did you take him to the Police Court?

Witness—No.

His Lordship—Did you not take a summons out?

Witness—No.

His Lordship—Why?

Witness—Because I was afraid; he said he would have me arrested.

His Lordship—Have you had any wages since leaving Kurachi?

Witness—No.

His Lordship—Where did you get the money to send home?

Witness—I borrowed \$35 from another Indian.

This was the case for the plaintiff.

For the defence, A. E. Borton, sworn, said the plaintiff was an old sepy in the 127th Baluchis. About three years ago he went to witness, saying he could not get work, and asked the defendant to take him on. Witness engaged him as a syce, and left Kurachi for Hongkong 1st April, bringing the plaintiff with him. He promised to pay the usual wage, but did not fix an amount. He agreed to pay him 20 rupees while in India, but told him that when they got to China he would give him the same wage as other servants received.

His Lordship—When did the first friction arise?

Witness—It started right away.

His Lordship—I know; but have you paid him anything here?

Witness—Yes, I have paid him up to January.

His Lordship—Why didn't you pay him after that?

Witness—On that day he came to me and said he could not live on \$20 a month, and that other officers gave their servants \$30 a month.

His Lordship—From your knowledge is that true?

Witness—No, sir. I called in an officer who the defendant said was paying his servant \$30, and that officer said it was a lie.

Witness, continuing, said the plaintiff then asked him to check his clothes; he did so the evening of that day. Plaintiff then asked him to pay him \$5, a week's wages, as he wished to leave. Witness gave plaintiff till 12 o'clock on the following day to reconsider his decision, saying that if he did not turn up he would not pay his return passage to India. He also said he would send him \$3 due for wages, as plaintiff had got \$2 worth of rice from the regimental storekeeper in witness's name. Later, he received a lawyer's letter, and on placing it before the Colonel and relating what had happened, the Colonel told him to see the case out.

Mr. Gardiner cross-examined.

Did you run up any debts in India?—A few, but not any bad ones.

His Lordship—Did you pay the plaintiff regularly?—Yes.

Mr. Gardiner—Did you borrow \$1,000 to go up for an exam.?—Yes, but I have since repaid it.

Did you agree to pay the plaintiff's passage back to India? I agreed with him that if I went on furlough, or if the doctor said he was ill and must return, that I would pay his passage unless he misconducted himself, in which case he would have to pay his own.

Living in Kowloon is more expensive than in India?—Yes, considerably more.

And your pay here does not go so far as it did there?—No. The allowances are not the same.

Are you sure you have had enough money for requirements?—No. There are very few people who have, but I have always paid my debts.

Can you give any reason why, after you paid this man, he should ask you for his wages?—He was always coming to me for advances. He said his people were starving because of the famine in India, and like a fool I advanced him money. I lent him £2 at Singapore, and he returned the amount less \$5, which he said he had given to a destitute friend.

His Lordship—Are there any more witnesses?

Mr. Gardiner—I'm afraid we will not be able to get any more. The influence of the defendant is too great amongst those who would be likely to help the plaintiff.

His Lordship—Who's at the bottom of this action? Somebody's put the plaintiff up to it.

Defendant—The plaintiff is a liar.

His Lordship—Yes. They are all liars. I will give judgment for the defendant. (To the interpreter) Tell the plaintiff to go home to his friends and not bring these actions any more.

Defendant—Is there no chance of my bringing him up now, sir?

His Lordship—Do you think it is worth your while?

Defendant—I should like to bring him up.

His Lordship—What is the use? He has got no money. I have given judgment for you.

Wednesday, January 31st.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A WIFE'S DRESS.

Madame Jay, dressmaker, brought an action against A. Galluzzi for the recovery of \$105, the price of a dress supplied to his wife, Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) represented defendant.

Mr. d'Almada submitted that, as the dress had been ordered, tried on and accepted by defendant on December 11th, subject to a few alterations which she desired made, there was an acceptance within the meaning of the law and that defendant was liable.

Defendant's case was that the dress which was required by Madame Galluzzi for the regatta, did not have the desired alterations when sent to her.

His Lordship said he did not wish to arbitrate between the ladies except as a last resource, and he adjourned the case with a view to their effecting a settlement.

Thursday, February 1st.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

AN ABSCONDING PLAINTIFF.

W. Alarakia sued Pak Sui-ki for \$1,000 due on a promissory note. Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. A. Holborow for defendant. Mr. Holborow asked that the case be struck off the list, as the plaintiff had absconded.

Mr. Hett objected to this, stating that although the man was absent he might return.

His Lordship—Do you know why he is absent?

Mr. Hett—No.

His Lordship—Well, I do. It is better for him.

Judgment was accordingly entered for defendant with costs.

A QUESTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

The Fung Cheung Wing firm brought an action against the Tse Ting Kwong firm for the recovery of \$236.56 for rice supplied. Mr. R. Harding appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) for defendants.

The claim, which had originally been for \$316.56, was for rice supplied to both defendants, who were contractors carrying out works at the Dock Yard Extension and Yaumati, but while it was admitted that the rice had been supplied it was denied that the two men were partners.

The case was adjourned.

Friday, February 2nd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

MISTRESS AND COOK.

Mak Alai, a cook, sued Della Huard for \$12, being a month's wages.

His Lordship—Do you admit owing her money?

COMPANIES.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AGENCY CO., LTD.

The seventeenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on the 1st Feb. Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. H. P. White, N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, and E. Shellim (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary), Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Messrs. J. Orange, J. R. Michael, G. Murray Bain, H. Percy Smith, A. Apear, E. Georg, S. Hancock, T. F. Hough, C. W. May, G. J. B. Sayer, W. H. Wickham and Ho Fook.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the CHAIRMAN, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Gentlemen,—I propose with your permission to dispense with the formality of reading the report and accounts which have now been in your hands for several days. There were in 1905 no acquisitions of new properties, the attention of the Board being devoted to the further development of those already held, and towards this purpose a considerable sum has been expended, as you will observe from the increased amount appearing as invested in property. The blocks known as Royal Buildings have been completed during the year, the first-named yielding revenue from September and the other two from October, but in these last there are still a few vacancies to be filled. When this is done and alterations to one other European building completed, our rent roll should be increased by about \$45,000 yearly. It is a matter of regret to your Directors that notwithstanding every endeavour it has not been possible to let many of your Chinese properties, such vacancies representing about \$75,000 annual rental, and in connection with this regrettable experience I can only repeat the statement made to you from this chair at the last annual meeting that it is difficult to reconcile such a state of affairs with the complaint of overcrowding in more central districts. Towards development expenditure money invested on mortgage has been called in to the extent of \$263,500, reducing the revenue from that source, and our indebtedness has likewise been increased for the same purpose entailing the payment of further interest. The sum of \$100,526 appearing at credit represents the profit on a sale of property still to be completed and an increase in the book value of the Company's holding in shares of the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., which, I may incidentally mention, have been recently dealt in at over 50 per cent. above what they now stand at in your books. A slight increase in charges is more than counterbalanced by a reduction in the sum expended on repairs, while the extra amount paid away for fire insurance is explained by the enhanced value of properties. Finally, gentlemen, your Directors are sanguine of being able, even though no sales of property be effected, to show in future years results which will admit of the payment of at least an equal dividend to that they propose for 1905, viz., 7 per cent. There are no other points which occur to me to refer to, but any questions you may desire to put bearing upon the statements now before the meeting I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Mr. Chairman, I rise to put some questions which I think ought to be put in the interests of the general body of shareholders of the Company. The first is—Is it a fact that this Company was one of the original shareholders in the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co.?

The CHAIRMAN—It is a fact.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—To what extent?

The CHAIRMAN—The Land Investment Co. has held shares to the value of \$200,000 in the Reclamation Co., which represent 16 per cent.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Is it a fact that reclaimed property was knocked down to Mr. Shelton Hooper, the paid Secretary of this Company, at public auction? If so, by whom was he employed to purchase that property?

The CHAIRMAN—My answer to the first question is No; the land was not knocked down to the Secretary of the Company.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Then, who was it knocked down to?

The CHAIRMAN—I don't know that I can answer that question. This is the Land Investment Company's meeting.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—You have just admitted that the managing directors thought it advisable for us to invest \$200,000 in the Land Reclamation Co., and that we were original shareholders. Therefore, I am entitled to know.

The CHAIRMAN—The decision to take \$200,000 worth of shares was arrived at by the full board of directors.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I want to know to whom the property was knocked down?

The CHAIRMAN—I haven't the information on hand.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—The information must be known to you, Sir Paul Chater, or the secretary.

SIR PAUL CHATER—I was not in the Colony at the time.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Mr. Northcote may be able to tell us?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I understand Mr. Northcote is secretary to the Land Reclamation Company?

The CHAIRMAN—No. He is bookkeeper. He was acting Secretary.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What profit has accrued to the Company as a shareholder in the Land Reclamation Co., from the reclamation effected by the latter Company at Tsimchatsoi, near Blackhead's Point?

The CHAIRMAN—Only a portion of the reclamation in question has been disposed of and the benefit to the company is derived in the shape of the interest, dividend and bonus recently declared, amounting to 12 per cent. in all.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—And we still hold shares in that company to the amount of \$200,000?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—And you told us just now that those shares have appreciated?

The CHAIRMAN—I mentioned by 50 per cent. as they now stand on the books.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What is the increase in the value of our property after making allowance for expenditure, depreciation, etc.?

The CHAIRMAN—The face value of the shares is \$75 each, but they stand in the books at \$100.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Are the managing directors of this Company also managing directors of the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co.?

The CHAIRMAN—It is a well-known fact that they are.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I only want to know the fact. Is it so?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Is it true that this company has disposed of any property or rights of reclamation to the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co.?

The CHAIRMAN—One lot has been sold by the Land Investment Co. to the Reclamation Co.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What lot is that?

The CHAIRMAN—Kowloon Marine Lot No. 49.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—And when did that sale take place?

The CHAIRMAN—In 1902.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Was that a property partially under the sea?

The CHAIRMAN—Not at that time.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Was that sale effected solely by the managing directors of this company to the managing directors of the Land Reclamation Co.?

The CHAIRMAN—I have no personal knowledge, as I was not a managing director at that time, but I am informed that the board of this company decided to sell.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Well, the managing directors of the other Company must have made up their minds that it was a good thing to buy, otherwise the matter wouldn't have gone through.

The CHAIRMAN—That seems a reasonable conclusion.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—How is the item, \$100,526, which appears in the accounts as a profit on property and on investments, made up?

The CHAIRMAN—I have already answered that question in my speech.

Defendant—Yes; he left without giving notice and took some of my cooking utensils away.

His Lordship—Well, I think you had better not admit the debt then. He had no right to leave you without giving notice. We had better hear him.

Plaintiff was then sworn.

His Lordship—You are cook to defendant?—Yes, sir.

When did you go there?—I joined on January 12th, last.

Quite sure?—Yes.

You say the 19th here on the writ. How much a month?—\$12 a month.

When did you leave?—I left on January 12th because she assaulted me.

His Lordship—Oh!

Plaintiff—Her husband assaulted me with a knife.

Why didn't you take the man to the Police Court?—I reported the matter to a Chinese constable who advised me to take out a summons.

Why didn't you?—I laid a complaint in the charge room. Then I was told to come down here and take out a summons in this court.

Have you any witnesses?—No; I am afraid to go to defendant's place.

His Lordship—You could always get a subpoena. (To defendant)—You had better get in the box.

What is your name?—Huard. It is not correctly spelt in the summons.

Are you a married woman?—No, sir.

He talked about your husband—No reply.

Defendant—This man came to me as cook on the 19th. He refused to do anything on the 26th, so I said to my boy, when he informed me that the cook would not work, "What do I pay him for?" The boy returned and said the cook still refused to do anything. Then I got up. He was at the door when I came out and demanded his wages. I went down into the kitchen, but as I found several things missing, I refused to pay him.

His Lordship—What about this story that he was assaulted?

Defendant—He was not assaulted.

His Lordship—Have you anybody here?

Defendant—The boy came with me, but I don't know what has happened outside.

A bailiff was then dispatched to look for the boy.

Defendant—He was not assaulted. I have always paid my servants.

His Lordship—It will save time if you go out there and look for your boy.

On her return,

His Lordship asked—Can you see him out there?

Defendant—I can't see him anywhere. He had taken me up to the other court by mistake.

His Lordship—Tell plaintiff he has not proved his case. It is only one person's word against another. Judgment will be for defendant.

A HONGKONG FAMILY DROWNED.

A HARBOUR FATALITY.

Among the small craft that suffered by Wednesday night's storm was the water boat *Tak Lee*, which foundered at Tsim-tsa-tsun about midnight when running from her anchorage at Yau-mat Bay to Causeway Bay for shelter. In the hurricane she shipped a considerable amount of water, and gradually sank, all the crew with one exception being missing. This man succeeded in swimming to Kowloon where he reported the occurrence, but the others—two men, two women and three children—are still missing.

A Peking letter states that several natives of Kiangsi province holding responsible official appointments in the capital have addressed the Ministry of Commerce (Shangpu) on the advisability of memorialising the Throne on the importance of opening up, without delay, to international trade the provincial capital of Kiangsi (Nadeh'ang), the city of Chian, and two other towns between Nanch'ang and the treaty port of Kiukiang, so as to prepare the way for the proposed railway between those two cities. The *N. C. Daily News* is informed that the above suggestions have been favourably received by the Ministry of Commerce.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I should like a definite, specific answer now.

The CHAIRMAN—I will again read you what I said.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I don't understand what you mean when you state "profits of sale of property still to be completed."

The CHAIRMAN—I mean that the property is sold, but the sale is not completed.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Do you mean to say we have not got this amount in hand?

The CHAIRMAN—That is so.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—How much is it?

The CHAIRMAN—\$50,526.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—And that is put down as profit when we have not received it yet?

Mr. CHAIRMAN—It is a profit, and it is quite a reasonable and proper thing to assess one's assets at the price at which they have already been sold.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—There are plenty of gentlemen in this room who know the ordinary principles of bookkeeping, and I will leave them to discuss that question. The next item I should like to inquire about is managing directors' fees, \$29,329.20. How is that item made up?

The CHAIRMAN—It is made up in accordance with article 95 of the Articles of Association of the Company.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Have you taken it on a 3½ or a five per cent. basis?

The CHAIRMAN—On a 3½ per cent.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Now, sir, do I understand you to consider this amount a net profit on which the managing directors are entitled to this percentage, although the company has not actually got the money in hand?

The CHAIRMAN—My idea of net profits is as shown by the accounts before you.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—That is no answer to my question. Is the sum of \$5,000 included in the managing directors' account of net profits?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I see you have included in net profits the amount brought forward of \$37,580.70, which is surely not net profits.

The CHAIRMAN—You are perfectly correct. It is not net profit, and commission has not been reckoned on that.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I don't see how the sum of \$29,329.20 can be possibly arrived at on a basis of 3½ per cent. It is obvious that this system of payment to the managing directors is very detrimental to the ordinary body of shareholders. If you refer to the figures of previous years when we received 12 instead of seven per cent. as for the year 1905, you will see that the managing directors' fees were less, being \$27,003.60 for 1904 and \$25,915.74 for 1903. Therefore, of three years, the managing directors have taken most in respect of the year 1905, in which year the shareholders only receive a seven per cent. as against a twelve per cent. dividend.

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART said he was induced to speak on the position of the Company as expressed by the report for two reasons. The first because the Company's management of certain property in Wanchai was the cause of protest in the public press, which had the result of special legislation being passed to put the matter in order. He thought that when the press and the police of their own initiative and with entire justification felt called upon to teach the Company how to manage any of its properties it was time for the ordinary shareholder to stir himself and say something. He trusted that no one would ever again be able to point the finger of scorn at the Company as the proprietor of any houses used for disorderly and immoral purposes, and he earnestly hoped that nothing similar to the deplorable business which disgraced Wanchai during the early part of last year need ever be again referred to at any future meeting of the Company. The second reason he had for speaking was that he had received letters from shareholders at home asking him how it was that the dividend had dropped from \$12 to \$7. They probably looked on the Company as a steady going concern and spent their dividends as they were received without bothering as to details. He was at a loss to give reasons for a fall in the dividend of nearly 50 per cent. If they were in a sinking Colony it would be explainable; but they were not. They had suffered from no devastating earthquake or typhoon, and they

must, therefore, look within and not to reasons without for some explanation of this unpleasant phenomenon. Since 1891 there had been an advance in the rateable value of the Colony from \$3,649,121 to \$10,472,278. Admitting some extension of area, it would still appear that money well invested in 1891 would be giving a very handsome return to-day. The published details as to the late Mr. Granville Sharp's estate also went to show that when his estate was duly assessed by competent and reliable authorities at the time of his death a few years ago, it was valued at \$1,000,000, and a lawsuit later proved that the estate had increased in value more than 100 per cent. Allowing for a safe valuation in the first case, there had been, and was now, a very great augmentation in the estate referred to which did not seem to be shown in the figures they had before them. Another interesting comparison was the Shanghai Land Company, whose shares stood at 140 per cent. premium against a premium of 25 per cent. in the case of the Land Investment Company. Granting that Shanghai was perhaps exceptionally favoured he did not think any one would say that the figures of relative prosperity were fairly represented by 140 per cent. as compared to 25 per cent. They had always hoped that the Land Investment Company marched hand in hand with the Colony both in prosperity and adversity. It was now some time ago since the newspapers reported the purchase of a large property at Tsimcha'soi by the secretary of this Company. Provided that the Government were desirous of selling the site, it seemed natural enough that the Land Company should desire to secure a substantial interest in a place from which anyone could see that railways might radiate all over China. It was with feelings of disappointment approaching to dismay that they eventually realised that this purchase was not for them but for a rival company brought out under the auspices of the managing director of the Land Investment Co. He used the word rival company advisedly, for to reclaim meant that it did so with the object of obtaining land to sell or rent, and therefore dealt in the same article as the Land Company did. Shareholders in the Land Investment Company naturally asked the question, why did they not do that business. If they had no loose money at the moment they could have easily borrowed it. Or if not, and it was advisable to increase the capital, it appeared to him that it would have been a graceful act and sound policy to have floated the new company as an infant to the Land Investment Company, by offering *pro rata* to the shareholders 50,000 shares at, say, \$20 each. It appeared to him it would be a sounder course if a system of associated and affiliated companies over which they had control were inaugurated than to invest in an outside company over which they would have no control. Some on the rival board might be friendly to them, but the paramount consideration at their meetings was their own Company's interests. Shareholders would have appreciated such consideration, and the most valuable asset in any company's accounts—mutual confidence and good-will between manager and managed—would have been increased. He trusted that they would not have dealings, as with the unexplainable preference which parents have for their younger offspring it might be, if the interests of little Jacob of Tsimcha'soi competed with those of their dilapidated old Esau of the Queen's Road, they would not get the better of the bargain. If those directors—thank goodness, there were some—who did not belong to both companies argued in their interests, some protection was afforded them; but the knowledge and influence of their managing directors was lost and in fact might be used against them. Anyone buying shares in the company was in the position of a man buying a property with a flaw in the title; he knew that the full fruit of his money would, in certain cases not be returned to him, as after a certain point the managing directors divided the profits with them. Shareholders accepted that position in the hope that the special knowledge and experience of the managing directors would be assured to them. He was aware that the Chairman was not a director of either company when the Reclamation Company started, but

being in the chair he accepted the risk of being heckled by discontented shareholders. The amount accorded to the managing directors, \$29,000 with a \$7 dividend seemed out of all proportion to services rendered, and it occurred to him to ask, Did the company belong to the managing directors, with the shareholders sad and forgotten children looking with hungry eyes for any crumbs which might fall from their masters' table? or, Did the company belong to the shareholders with the managing directors as their highly remunerated officers? He would ask them for a ruling on that point. If the latter were the case, it seemed odd that \$15,000 should be paid to two directors and somewhere about \$1,000 each to others who had remained staunch to the company throughout. It was better, he was sure the Chairman would agree, that if there was discontent it should be openly ventilated than secretly whispered. By that course remedies might be suggested and perhaps a cure effected. He offered those remarks in the hope that misgiving might be removed and the future outlook improved. If the present policy of floating new land companies and managing them with officials of that company was to pass unchallenged, it might be continued indefinitely to their injury. Divided allegiance and half-hearted service could lead only to disappointment. By single-minded and devoted service alone could the company become great, and he protested against their officers and directors serving rival land companies as an injustice to the shareholders of the company.

The CHAIRMAN—I think it would be more in order if I at first proposed the adoption of the report and accounts. I have ascertained meanwhile that the property in question was bought at auction by Mr. Orange as agent for the Reclamation Co., Mr. Shelton Hooper being at home at the time.

Mr. MICHAEL—I have a question to ask. Mr. Pollock asked about the writing up of the \$200,000 worth of shares in the Reclamation Co. I see you have written up from \$75 to \$100.

The CHAIRMAN—That is so.

Mr. MICHAEL—How did you arrive at that price? You remarked in your speech that they had gone up 50 per cent. beyond book value.

The CHAIRMAN—If you mean that the shares may reasonably be written up to a higher figure, I agree with you. But the directors decided that \$100 was a safe and reasonable figure to put them at, leaving a further margin for a future rainy day.

Mr. MICHAEL—So that, even when business has been done at \$150, you put them down at \$100.

The CHAIRMAN—They stand at \$100.

Mr. MICHAEL—And on that writing up you charge your commission?

The CHAIRMAN—That is, of course, unquestioned.

Mr. MICHAEL—We have got property to the value of about \$6,000,000. What proportion in value is still undeveloped and unproductive to us?

The CHAIRMAN—About half a lakh of dollars.

Mr. MICHAEL—What is the percentage?

The CHAIRMAN—You can figure it out for yourself.

Mr. MICHAEL—Less than one per cent.?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. MICHAEL—Well, I have a suggestion to make.

The CHAIRMAN—I think we had better get on with the business of the meeting.

Mr. MICHAEL—It might be an important suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN—I shall be pleased to hear it after the business of the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—I am in accord with very many of the remarks which have fallen from my friend, Mr. Gershom Stewart, and, in reply to what he has said, I think it might be useful if I indicated how the Reclamation Company came to be formed. That company was formed in April, 1902, four years ago, the directors of this company having in view the then contemplated Praya East reclamation, which you will all recall, and in which the Land Investment Company by reason of its ownership of many marine lots in that district would have had a considerable interest, and the necessity that would occasion for a large capital

outlay which could not be productive for many years. The idea was conceived of forming a new and distinct company which would undertake that work and thus avoid a lock-up of capital to the Land Investment Co. The project was submitted to your full board, who in the then position of the company referred especially to the extensive programme to which we are already committed. They deemed it prudent to place some limit on such a prospective outlay and decided to take an interest of \$200,000 in the new company. Those shares were applied for and allotted to them, and are still held; in this way it was considered that shareholders' interests were very appreciably protected, but I am very sorry to gather from the remarks made that shareholders themselves hold a different opinion.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I think in your statement just made you gave an inaccurate answer to my question just now. I asked if it was true that this company had disposed of any property or rights of reclamation to the Reclamation Co., and your answer only referred to Marine Lot 49. From what you say now I gather that you disposed of our rights to the Praya East Reclamation. Is that so?

The CHAIRMAN—That idea was suggested at a meeting of this company, but it is not so.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Have we sold or agreed to sell the Praya East reclamation?

The CHAIRMAN—I have already said No. Distinctly, No.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It was intended or contemplated to sell?

Sir PAUL CHATER—Certainly not. It was never dreamt of.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What is the object of the Chairman's statement?

The CHAIRMAN—I am sorry I cannot make it any clearer.

Mr. POLLOCK—It is not my fault. You have got the information. I am a shareholder and ask for it.

The CHAIRMAN—I am sorry if you are unable to grasp it.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—You referred to the Praya reclamation.

The CHAIRMAN—That is not so. It was in view of the enormous outlay that the idea of forming this Reclamation Co. originated, in order to relieve the Land Investment Co. of an expenditure which would entail a very inconvenient lock-up of capital.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I must confess I don't understand your explanation at all.

Sir PAUL CHATER said the new project of the Land Reclamation at Tsimchatsoi could not have been kept waiting and as the Land Investment Co. by virtue of their marine lots at East Point was committed to a large expenditure for reclamation there which had been passed by the Government and was only pending the settlement of the dispute between the Colonial Government and the Navy and was also committed to large building operations which, as you have heard from the Chairman, have only been completed a few months ago, was not in a position to undertake this work, for it meant the locking up of a million and a quarter of money for three years at the least in the reclamation and a further two or three years for the buildings to be put up on it, which would have meant no dividend for the Land shareholders whereas they have had dividends of \$12 and now of \$7, therefore, a separate company was formed to undertake the work. The Board of the Land Investment Co. were offered as much of the stock of the Reclamation Co. as they liked to take and they decided that they could only take \$200,000, because of their commitments already mentioned.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I don't understand. If it was considered by the managing directors, as directors for this company, advisable for the Company to become the holder of a \$200,000 share in the Reclamation Company, why didn't they take all the shares. Why was not the extra business offered to shareholders?

Sir PAUL CHATER—With the individual shareholders we have nothing to do. I am speaking of the Company as a whole. The Land Investment Co. took what they wanted of the whole capital, but for reasons given you they thought it advisable not to put too much money in this concern. Imagine \$1,200,000 not earning anything at all; would you have got a dividend? Certainly not.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Your explanation seems no explanation at all. From the chairman's speech we understood we could sell our property at \$1 0,528?

Sir PAUL CHATER—That is to-day, yes. Not four years ago. I pointed out to you that if it was not a good thing the directors would not have taken the interest in it.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Why didn't we get it all then?

Sir PAUL CHATER—Because of the reasons I have stated.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I don't understand those reasons.

Mr. MICHAEL—I think I can gather at what Mr. Pollock is driving. He considers that the directors should have submitted their scheme anent the reclamation shares to shareholders, and asked whether they wanted it or not.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I thank Mr. Michael for exactly expressing what I meant. I didn't know I was so obscure.

Sir PAUL CHATER—We are not here to look after individual shareholders of the company. The company is looked after by the Board of Directors and they took their choice. If on that occasion I had come round and asked some of you to take an interest in the concern, I venture to say not one of you would have taken it.

Mr. STEWART—That is prophecy; you don't know.

Sir PAUL CHATER—I will go further. Some one did take an interest to the extent of \$50,000, and after the Land in question had been sold by the Government at auction to the Reclamation Co. for \$220,000 over the upset price, he was very sick and sold his shares at par.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK agreed with Mr. Michael that the proper course for the directors would have been to consult the shareholders, and a meeting ought to have been called for that purpose. As it was, the managing directors took an interest of 2,000 out of 12,500 shares, which appeared to have been, from what he could gather, a very good investment. He certainly thought the Board was starting a rival company.

The CHAIRMAN—I must take exception to your calling the Land Reclamation a rival company.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What do you call it, a competing company? I should very much like to know what you defined it as.

The CHAIRMAN—You cannot have an interest in a rival company.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It surely competes with ours. It does similar business to ours.

The CHAIRMAN—I propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. BAIN—I have much pleasure in seconding that motion. We have had quite enough talking as yet, and I make no remarks on the question.

The motion was carried, Mr. Pollock voting against.

Mr. MICHAEL suggested that the six million dollars' worth of the Company's property should be valued so that shareholders might know its worth. It might be worth twelve millions and if that were so they were only getting 3½ instead of 7 per cent. dividend. He suggested that the value of the property should be put on record every second or third year.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Michael's suggestion would have the consideration of the board.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—In the course of this discussion I have listened to a remark of Sir Paul Chater's which has filled me with regret. He said he did not consider it his business to study the interests of shareholders.

Sir PAUL CHATER—Individual shareholders.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—The company is made up of individual shareholders, and it seems to me there is an error of judgment somewhere. I wish to propose that "The shareholders of this company desire to record their opinion that in future any favourable opportunities for reclamation or other dealings in property in respect of which fresh capital is required ought to be offered in the first instance by the managing directors to shareholders of this company, and that no property or rights of the company ought to be sold to the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co."

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded the motion.

Mr. MICHAEL wished the resolution amended. The Hongkong Land Reclamation Company might at some time offer them a good price for property, and they would have to refuse the offer.

On the motion being put there were two for and eight (including 7 directors) against it; the remainder of the shareholders did not vote.

Hon. Mr. STEWART said the resolution could be placed on record as a protest.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved "That the shareholders of this Company do protest against any of their directors and officers serving in a land company which competes in business with this company in any respect whatever."

Hon. Mr. STEWART seconded.

The CHAIRMAN—It is my duty to point out to you that if this resolution is adopted it will very seriously effect your commission account.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—We'll risk that.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I think our commission account is very small.

The motion was lost, there being three for and twelve against.

Mr. SMITH moved, and Mr. ORANGE seconded, that Messrs. N. A. Siebs and H. P. White be re-appointed directors. The motion was carried.

Mr. SAYER moved that Messrs. T. Arnold and C. W. May be re-elected auditors.

Mr. SMITH seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow, gentlemen.

WEST POINT BUILDING CO.

The eighteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held on Feb. 1 at the offices, Victoria Buildings. Sir Paul Chater presided, and the others present were:—Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mr. A. G. Wood, directors; Messrs. F. E. Ellis, J. M. Graca, A. Shalton Hooper, F. Maitland, C. W. May, J. R. Michael, J. Orange, and H. Percy Smith.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—I purpose with your permission to take the report and accounts as read. The net profits for the past year amount to \$45,709.67 as against \$40,434.57 for the previous year. This increase is brought about by the property having been leased from April 1st at an increased rental of \$1,000 per month. On the other hand, you will observe that the cost of repairs has increased from \$2,197.50 to \$5,212.34. This expenditure has been necessitated by the requirements of the Sanitary Board and the general doing up of the property on the change of tenancy. We are thus enabled to pay a dividend for the year under review of \$3.65 as against \$3.20 for the previous year, and in the absence of any abnormal expenditure, which we have no reason to anticipate, the returns for the current year with the increased rental under the new lease should enable us to pay a still better dividend in the future. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts as presented, I shall be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may wish to put.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. MAITLAND seconded, and the proposition was carried.

On the motion of Mr. PERCY SMITH, seconded by Mr. MAITLAND, the appointment of Hon. Mr. W. C. Dickson as director was confirmed.

Mr. GRACA proposed, and Mr. ELLIS seconded, the re-election of Sir Paul Chater and Mr. A. G. Wood as directors. Carried unanimously.

Mr. W. C. May and Mr. T. Arnold were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. SMITH, seconded by Mr. ORANGE.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twenty-fifth annual report reads:—The General Managers have pleasure in submitting a statement of the company's accounts for the year 1905.

Including \$5,356.77 brought forward from the previous year, and after deducting \$20,000 paid as an interim dividend of \$4 per share, the balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$128,776.31, which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A Final Dividend of \$15 per share...\$ 75,000.00
Provision for Contingencies ... 20,000.00
To write off Property A/c. ... 30,000.00
To carry forward ... 3,776.31

\$128,776.31

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Property account	172,068.87		
Extension account	20,869.34		
Invested in:—			
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s Share...	225.00		
China Fire Insurance Co.'s Share	85.00		
Canton Insurance Office's Share	120.00		
Cash in hand	383.36		
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on current account	16,148.37		
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on deposit	60,000.00		
Mortgages	41,000.00		
Outstanding accounts	12,498.15		
Accounts receivable	921.37		
Ice in stock	180.00		
Coal in stock	678.50		
Fire Insurance, unexpired premium	123.64		
		\$331,304.40	

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital	125,000.00		
Accounts payable	8,947.96		
Ammonia reserve account	8,580.13		
Provision for Contingencies	60,000.00		
Profit and loss account	128,776.31		
		\$331,804.40	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To salaries, wages and general trade expenses	38,748.64	
To General Managers' commission	2,000.00	
To auditor's fee	150.00	
	40,898.64	
To interim dividend of 16 per cent. paid on 2nd August, 1905	20,000.00	
To balance	128,776.31	
	\$189,674.95	
By balance brought forward from last year	5,356.77	
By receipts for ice and cold storage	179,319.93	
By rents received (less Crown rents and taxes paid)	2,229.06	
By interest	2,762.19	
By transfer fees	16.00	
	\$189,674.95	

Hongkong, 31st December, 1905.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LD.

The seventeenth report of the board of directors to be presented on Tuesday, February 6th reads:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

The balance of profit and loss account for the year, after writing off all charges and expenses, amounted to \$16,124.29. The directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of \$2.50 per share be paid, which, after writing off the directors' and auditor's fees, will leave a balance of \$574.29 to be carried forward to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. T. F. Hough and A. Rodger retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thos. Arnold, who now retires, but offers himself for re-election.

T. F. HOUGH,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET TO DECEMBER 31st, 1905

LIABILITIES.		
Dec. 31st, 1905.		
Paid-up capital	\$180,000.00	
Accounts payable	383.80	
Dividends outstanding	104.55	
Balance of profit and loss account	16,124.29	
	\$196,612.64	

ASSETS.

Dec. 31st, 1905.		
Cash	\$ 12,545.10	
Cost of property	182,032.17	
Accounts receivable	2,035.37	
	\$196,612.64	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st, 1905.	Dr.	
To charges	\$ 630.98	
To crown rent	786.00	
To fire insurance	535.48	
To repairs	3,700.98	
To commission to agents	1,547.37	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees	\$ 500.00	
Auditor's fee	50.00	
Dividend of \$2.50 per share	15,000.00	
To be carried to new profit and loss account	574.29	
	16,124.29	
	\$23,325.10	

Jan. 1st, 1905.	Cr.	
By balance brought forward	\$ 377.79	
By rent	22,784.20	
By interest	124.11	
By scrip fees	39.00	
	\$23,325.10	

S. C. FARNHAM, BOYD & CO., LTD.

The shareholders in "Farnhams" decided to reconstruct on Jan. 23rd. The following, which appeared in the *N.-C. Daily News* the day before, was well advised:—The object is to propose and pass some important resolutions, relating to the liquidation and reorganisation of the present company. The shareholders for some considerable time past have felt that they should be represented on the Board. The present Directors, with Mr. John Prentice as Chairman and Managing Director, fully realise that this desire is quite reasonable, and they have intimated to the shareholders their willingness to meet their wishes.

We do not propose to recapitulate the past history of the Company, but it is a well-known fact that the interests of the shareholders have not been considered in the way they should have during the reign of Mr. Twentymen. Since he has retired, the whole scene is changed, and the gentleman who is now the Managing Director has the full confidence of the shareholders and public. It is a matter for congratulation that such is the case, and we feel sure that the successful working of the premier Dock Company is of the utmost consequence, either directly or indirectly not only to the shareholders, but to everyone who is commercially interested in Shanghai.

We hear on good authority, that to-morrow the present Board will meet the shareholders in a perfectly friendly manner.

The notice convening the meeting contains a resolution that the name of the Company shall be changed to the Shanghai Dock Company, Limited. To our mind there is not the slightest doubt that, as the largest concern of its kind in Shanghai, the Company should bear the name of the place.

With regard to the new Board, we understand that Mr. Prentice will continue as Chairman and Managing Director, and Messrs. H. von Rücker and S. Groundwater (the two senior directors of the present Board) also will remain on the directorate, and they will be joined, if the shareholders agree, by Sir Charles Dudgeon, Messrs. W. J. Gresson, A. Korff, and James Johnston. The names of these gentlemen are sufficient to guarantee the future success of the Company. The shareholders should be well satisfied that, besides having the services and experience of Mr. Prentice and his two co-directors, they have, in addition, four such influential names put before them as those of the gentlemen willing to serve on the proposed new Board.

RECONSTRUCTION AGREED UPON.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this company, called at the request of ten shareholders, was held at Shanghai on January 23rd. There were present:

Mr. John Prentice (Chairman), Messrs. H. von Rücker, S. Groundwater, D. Cranston, and J. Grant Mackenzie (Directors), J. H. Osborne (Secretary), J. H. Teesdale, (Legal Adviser), Sir Charles J. Dudgeon, W. Allanson, A. L. Anderson, W. H. Anderson, L. Amidani, Alex. Sinclair, G. Baker, S. S. Benjamin, D. T. Black, C. Broderson, W. G. Bayne, W. H. Beatty, J. Berthelot, N. E. Bryant, A. H. Best, E. O. Cumming, F. A. Cumming, W. W. Cox, T. Cranston, P. Carlson, A. H. Collinson, H. J. Clark, W. Crighton, H. J. Craig, G. D. Coutts, W. J. B. Carter, P. V. Davis, C. P. Dawson, A. Dabelstein, C. E. Ellis, L. C. B. Edmonston, J. R. Elias, R. H. Elias, P. Macgregor Grant, W. J. Gresson, M. Hoerter, R. H. Hunt, P. W. Irvine, R. S. Ivy, J. Johnston, J. Judah, W. S. Jackson, A. Korff, D. Landale, A. W. Maitland, J. Morris, I. G. Michael, H. Mandl, A. Miller, S. Nielson, H. Ollerdesen, A. Penney, W. G. Pirie, D. C. F. Peebles, T. Pemberton, H. H. Read, W. B. Robertson, H. Robertson, F. A. Robinson, J. N. Robb, Dr. Gilbert Reid, M. A. Sopher, E. B. Skottowe, Dr. Stanley, W. F. Spinney, J. D. Thorburn, F. E. Taylor, R. Turnbull, J. Valentine, A. Vita, T. Weir, R. Wortmann, W. Wunderleach, J. M. Young, Ng Tik-shan, and Pwn Yuk-chor, representing about 33,089 shares.

The Chairman—I need not ask the Secretary to read the Resolutions you are called together to consider, as they are before you. As you know, a good deal of friction has been going on in this Company up to the present time, but when I tell you I am going to propose all these resolutions myself, I think you will agree with me that we have come to an amicable settlement. I have met various deputations from the ten gentlemen who signed the requisition calling this meeting, gentlemen who were very representative shareholders and themselves hold a great many shares. After much discussion we came to the agreement to amend our Articles of Association in a way which these ten gentlemen have accepted in the interests of the shareholders. I need not detain you longer, because the less said at this meeting the better, but I think it is much better we should have come together all through in a friendly spirit. That has been the way in which Mr. Taylor and all the other gentlemen concerned in this agitation have met me, and I hope I have dealt with them in the same spirit (applause).

The Chairman then proposed, and Mr. J. M. Young seconded:—

"That it is desirable to reconstruct the Company and, accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Liquidators be appointed for the purpose of such winding up.

This was carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman remarked, in regard to the second resolution, that an amendment had been made by Mr. Korff, seconded by Sir Charles Dudgeon, to add the words "and Engineering" to the title of the new Company. The Directors were quite prepared to accept that amendment.

Mr. Bayne suggested that the amendment should be put, and that if passed it should be incorporated in the second resolution when it came to be proposed.

This was agreed to, and the amendment was passed.

The Chairman then moved, and Mr. Bayne seconded, the amended second resolution as follows:—

That the said Liquidators be and they are hereby authorised to consent to the registration of the new Company to be named:—"The Shanghai Dock and Engineering Company, Limited," with a Memorandum and Articles of Association submitted at this meeting to the shareholders and, if approved, to be confirmed at a subsequent meeting.

This was carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman moved, and Mr. H. J. Craig seconded, the third resolution as follows:—

That the said Liquidators be and they are hereby authorised to take all such steps as may be necessary to transfer the Assets and Liabilities of the old Company to such new Company, and carry into effect the two foregoing Resolutions, and such Liquidators are further authorised pursuant to section 149 of the Companies Ordinance of Hongkong No. 1 of 1865 Part 4, to enter into an agreement with such new

Company, when incorporated, and to carry the same into effect.

This was carried.

Sir Charles Dudgeon thought the meeting could not break up without recording its thanks to a gentleman who had devoted a great amount of time to bring this business to a satisfactory conclusion, Mr. F. E. Taylor. It was due to the tactful way he had done the work that it had been carried through in such an amicable manner (applause).

The Chairman added a few words saying that all through the negotiations Mr. Taylor had been most cordial and shown no aggressiveness and he hoped he (the speaker) had not been aggressive either.

Mr. Weir thought a special vote of thanks should be accorded to the Chairman on this occasion (applause).

Mr. Taylor expressed his obligations for the remarks made and the way in which they had been received. He thought the people really to be thanked were the four gentlemen who had come forward to undertake a great deal of hard work for most inadequate remuneration—the new directors, Sir Chas. Dudgeon and Messrs. W. J. Gresson, A. Korff, and J. Johnston (applause).

The Chairman explained that, as the financial year of the old company ended on the 30th of April, it would probably be advisable that the new Company should begin on the 1st of May.

The shareholders decided to leave this matter in the hands of the liquidators and the meeting ended.

DEATH OF MR. G. J. L. LITTON.

We deeply regret to learn from the *Rangoon Times* the death of Mr. G. J. L. Litton, British Consul at Tengyueh, an officer to whom the mercantile community of Rangoon have been deeply indebted for his earnest labours in Yunnan on their behalf. No details have been received, but it is understood Mr. Litton died of fever on January 9th, on the eve of his departure on well-earned leave. Mr. Litton, who was thirty-six years of age, was educated at Eton and at Oriel College, Oxford, and entered the Consular Service in 1891, first serving in the Straits Settlements and afterwards in China. In 1899-1900 he was attached to the Burmo-Chinese Boundary Commission and was then posted to Tengyueh. Mr. Litton had a high reputation in the service, and his premature death will be deeply deplored. Mr. Ottewill, who succeeds him, has left Bhamo for Tengyueh.

While Mr. Litton was attached to the Burmo-Chinese Boundary Commission he nearly lost his life. Accompanied by Major Kiddle, of the R.A.M.C., and Mr. Sutherland an official of the British Shan States, Mr. Litton visited the market of Mengtung. They were unexpectedly attacked by a number of Was (a savage tribe of head-hunters), armed with swords and guns. Mr. Litton was knocked senseless, but was eventually saved by the bravery and presence of mind of a Chinese soldier; his two companions were killed and their heads borne in triumph to the village of a Wa chief. Reprisals followed, the escorts of the Chinese and British commissioners acting in concert, and about 60 Wa villages were destroyed.

POLICE SHOOTING CONTEST.

Although an ideal day for a picnic, the weather on January 26 was not all that could be desired by marksmen, consequently while there was a good attendance at the King Edward Range, Kowloon, which included a large number of ladies, the shooting was not up to the average. The match was Police Inspectors versus rest of the force, and with a strong, wind blowing and in a treacherous light, shooting began. The shooting was at 200, 400 and 500 yards. The Sergeants and Constables won by 49 points. For this side Pitt scored 88, while for the Inspectors Mr. Warnock headed the score with a total of 82.

A modern feature of Peking street life is the large number of foreign broughams used by wealthy Chinese.

BARON SUYEMATSU AND THE N. D. L.

In consequence of Reuter's telegrams announcing that Baron Suyematsu, while a passenger on the N.D.L. s.s. *Zeiten*, had complained of discourteous treatment, a *Daily Press* representative was instructed to interview the distinguished Japanese diplomat, as well as the commander, immediately on arrival of the steamer at Hongkong.

Baron Suyematsu said that but for one circumstance he would not have consented to refer again to this disagreeable matter. He published his complaint at Port Said, the first available opportunity; and at Colombo, the German Consul, who happened also to be agent for the Norddeutscher Lloyd, waited upon him and assured him that no intentional disrespect had been paid to him.

"With that assurance," said His Excellency, "I was quite satisfied, and prepared to regard the incident as closed. I agree to speak for publication in the *Daily Press* now because of what was published in a newspaper at Singapore [*Straits Times*], as coming from the the Captain when interviewed at Penang. That statement is false from beginning to end. Captain von Binzer is reported to have said that the upper seats at the Chief Officer's table were occupied by ladies. That is not true. Apart from any special claims to courtesy, I consider that as a Japanese gentleman I was disgracefully treated. I was seated, with my staff and three other Japanese passengers, at the foot of the Chief Officer's table. At each port on the way out passengers were getting off, and if there had been any sincere desire to make amends, I could easily have been offered more honourable places. It is true that the captain approached me on board, as he says, but the manner in which he did it was to add further insult to the one already given. He approached me as I was coming out of the smoke room, when it was dark."

The interview with the captain was not managed. He was very busy, naturally, and the numerous other engagements of our reporters prevented a mutually convenient appointment. We reproduce, therefore, Capt. von Binzer's explanation as it was published at Singapore—the one to which the Baron has just taken exception.

"He says that H.E. Chang Ta-jen, the returning Chinese Minister, boarded the *Zieten* at Southampton. He (the Captain) had received no instructions from his Company or elsewhere that he was to expect any passenger of such exalted rank; but when the Minister saw him, he gave him his flag, which he had hoisted at the fore, as is the customary courtesy with all passenger ships and warships when carrying a distinguished personage of alien nationality. The Captain's table was already full, but the Minister was offered the separate private table usually reserved for distinguished persons, and he accepted it. Subsequently, at Genoa, Baron Suyematsu came on board the *Zieten*. Captain von Binzer had received no instructions as to his arrival, and did not expect any more distinguished diplomats. The Baron was received at first as an ordinary passenger of high rank, and was given a seat at the Chief Officer's table. The upper seats were already occupied, and the Baron was placed below the ladies who occupied the seats of honour. When, subsequently, the Captain learned indirectly that Baron Suyematsu was a statesman of high rank and a diplomatic representative of his nation in Europe, he promptly sent the Chief Steward to him to enquire if he desired to be placed at a separate private table similar to that occupied by the Chinese Minister. This offer the Baron refused; but next morning he took such a table and ordered the stewards to lay it for him and his party. This was done. He never complained of anything to the Captain, whom he only saluted when addressed, but merely wrote to the press. His complaint was solely anent the places assigned to himself and suite at table, the entire party of Japanese claiming the right to seats at the Captain's table. Your correspondent interviewed many passengers on board the s.s. *Zieten*, including the Chinese Minister and all expressed their satisfaction with the treatment accorded to them during the voyage."

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

January 24th.

THE RAILWAY MUDDLE.

It is reported that Ex-Viceroy Hui, of Fukien, has received another telegram stating that the Cantonese officials in Peking have sent a joint petition to the Throne and that an Imperial Edict has been issued and cabled to H. B. Viceroy Chou Fu, of the Liang-Kiang, ordering him to make a thorough investigation in the matter and to send a report to the Throne. I am informed that a joint memorial has also been telegraphed by the Tartar-Generals and the two Lieutenant Tartar-Generals and the Literary Chancellor. An early decree is expected in reply and it is hoped the matter will be settled early, as the memorial contains full particulars as to how the railway should be constructed. It appears that it was through error that in the express issued by the Yeong-Shing it was stated that a Tartar-General Ping-Kee was being deputed to Canton. The official referred to is a son of the Ex-Viceroy Hui, and is not a Tartar-General. This departure has been moreover cancelled, Viceroy Chou Fu having been ordered to carry out the investigation. It is expected that the commissioners appointed by the Liang-Kiang Viceroy will soon arrive here.

THE SILK TRADE.

Silk is one of the most important items in the export trade of the Kwangtung province. When the business was in a flourishing condition there were over 185 filatures working. The fall in exchange, had it been constant and stable, would have stimulated activity in production, but its fluctuations and a series of bad crops have gradually diminished the number of filatures, which numbered only 106 at the beginning of this Chinese year. In the 6th and 7th moons of this year over 20 filatures failed and had to close, thus bringing the total down to 80. It is expected that others will close after the New Year and that only about 50 filatures will remain. The prosperity of this branch of commerce is closely linked to the general prosperity of business in Kwangtung, as money is scarce or plentiful according to the importance of the export of this commodity. Trade is generally depressed in consequence, and it is anticipated that, if business does not improve, a commercial crisis will be the result.

January 30th.

VICEREGAL FEARS.

It was reported before the Chinese New Year that the Viceroy had telegraphed to Peking asking for four thousand well-trained soldiers to reinforce the Canton Garrison so as to enable him to cope with an emergency should trouble arise. The first two batches of Kiang-su and Yuan-Hui soldiers arrived here on the 28th inst. and are stationed near the Small East Gate. They were landed yesterday, 660 from the *Chi-Yuen* and 640 from the *Tai-Shun*, both China Merchants' steamers. The balance is expected to arrive in a few days.

It is also reported that Viceroy Chou-fu has delegated Shum Tung and Chui Kang-pai, both Taotais, as special commissioners to investigate the recent trouble. They are expected to reach Canton next week.

MORE VICEREGAL VIEWS OF THE RAILWAY SITUATION.

The Viceroy has sent a despatch to the General Chamber of Commerce. It refers first to the redemption of the Canton-Hankow Railway concession, and then proceeds:—"I have given official instructions to the Provincial Treasurer and to all the Taotais of Canton to convene the Kwangtung gentry to meetings and to deliberate over the question of the construction of railways in Kwangtung Province and to establish offices for that purpose. As the Canton-Hankow Railway has a direct interest for the three Provinces of Kwangtung, Hunan, and Hupeh, and as the concession has been redeemed, it is only proper that immediate steps should be taken for its construction. If on account of insufficiency of funds the scheme is abandoned, not only will the three million taels borrowed to redeem it be wasted but there is in addition a million taels' worth of debentures on which interest will have to be paid. Besides this, we will not be able to fulfil the condition,

of the agreement we have entered into with the other two provinces, and the more we delay the more interest we shall have to pay. Moreover, it was stipulated in the agreement that if the different sections are not linked together at their respective frontiers within a certain date the other provinces shall have the right to conclude the work and shall control that section of the line until the monies disbursed by them shall be refunded. Such sums advanced bearing interest, of course. Thus you can see what a calamity you are bringing upon yourselves. The length of the line from Wong-Sha to the Hunan frontier at Ping-Shek is about one thousand li. This section is a long one, and is a big undertaking. If a large fund is not raised it will be a difficult matter to carry it out. Now the most important question is, How to raise these funds? My plans are as follows: To obtain part of it from the Government coffers, to raise another part by increased taxation, and the balance by inviting the people to take up shares in the company. With regard to the first two methods I have already given instructions to the officials, the Provincial Treasury, the Salt Comptroller, the Sin Han Kuei, and the Likin department. The remaining question is to invite the people to take up shares, and, in doing so, rules and regulations must be drawn up and published so that the people should be informed. You are all aware that in Japan and Europe railways are numerous and that the people of those countries believe that every railway is a gold mine in itself. A suggestion has only to be made in the morning for the construction of the line in view and the funds are there in the evening. Now, we are only beginning to have railways in China. There are many wealthy gentry and merchants in Kwangtung. If they only would combine and take up shares in the railway company it would be constructed very soon. Besides, if this railway is completed it would not end in Hankow but will extend on to Siberia and thence to Europe. The enormous profits that would be derived are an absolute certainty. If you cannot raise funds to construct this railway, it is like sitting down and seeing the profits flowing into foreigners' pockets. I cannot guarantee that foreigners will not be tempted to snatch it away from you. At present the directors of the Canton-Hankow Railway head office in Kwangtung have sent me a copy of the conditions and regulations of the company for inviting the people to take up shares in the concern. They are very carefully drawn up. It is now my duty to forward this despatch to the General Chamber of Commerce of Canton and to request it to invite the gentry and merchants to deliberate over each item minutely. If there are any necessary alterations to be made, they should be sent to me by the Chamber of Commerce for my decision. This is a matter from which the general public will derive a benefit. It is for the public good. Any suggestions will receive my attention, and I will not grudge the work, no matter how hard it may be. My chief aim is to get this railway constructed, and if one scheme does not work I will take others. If there is any energetic and resolute person who will guarantee the raising of funds, and can produce such authentic proofs, I will grant him the privilege with full power and control to construct the railway, and I will give him full protection. But you cannot under any pretext delay the construction of the railway, as time is most important in this matter. I trust that you will take early steps to convene a meeting and will abstain from disobedience. I trust to receive an early reply from you. I enclose you a copy of the conditions and regulations."

January 31st.

FOREIGN CAPITAL.

Viceroy Shun's desire to exploit foreign capital is being considered by the Board of Revenue, whose decision is expected soon.

THE IMPRISONED GUILD-MAN.

Lai Kwai-pui, the representative of the Guilds who is imprisoned for criticising the Viceroyal government, had hundreds of New Year callers.

CHINESE EVIDENCE.

Viceroy Chou Fu telegraphed his son Chow Hok-yuen, an expectant Taotai, to make a list of all the officials who had acted "rashly" in

connection with the recent agitation, and he (the Liang-Kiang Viceroy) would denounce them to the Throne. Chang Chih-tung has been ordered by Peking to make private enquiries about affairs at Canton.

POSSIBLE MAGISTERIAL CHANGE.

The Poon-yu Magistrate, Chai Wai-tung, is in disgrace so far as local officials are concerned; his colleagues wish to replace him with Tong Shing-chung, the Shuntak magistrate. The Viceroy held a private consultation yesterday morning with the officials.

A SPECULATION FOILED.

The Viceroy has officially closed a granite quarry which a native had let to a prominent Hongkong compradore, it having been represented that the quarry was on Government property. The quarry was taken as a speculation to supply material for the railway.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

SAMSHUI BRANCH.

Mr. C. W. Mead, late Chief Engineer of the Canton-Hankow Railway, contributes a copiously illustrated article on the survey and partial construction of this line to the *Far Eastern Review* of the current month. He says:—

Leaving Canton the line runs N. up the Pearl River about 30 ms. where it strikes across to the Pei River following the valley about 100 ms. to Shao Chou, thence up the Wei River to near its headwaters, where it crosses a range of mountains onto the headwaters of the Lei River which flows N. into the Siang and Yangtze; then following the Lei, Siang and Yangtze valleys to Wuchang on the S. side of the Yangtze opposite Hankow. The line traverses a country rich in both agricultural and mineral resources, and thickly settled except in the mountainous districts and some of the flooded sections of the Yangtze and Siang River valleys.

Approximately the main line is 750 ms. in length, and there are about 150 ms. of branches, of which the most important is the Canton-Samshui line which has been constructed and in operation for 2 years. An important feeder leading from Ping Hsiang to Chu Chou, about 60 ms., has been constructed, and is now in operation. This will bring the products of the Ping Hsiang coal mines, owned and operated by H.E. Sheng Kung Pao, to Chu Chou, where they will be transhipped to the Han Yang Iron Works, also owned and operated by Sheng.

SURVEY OF THE LINE.

A reconnaissance survey was run over the entire line by Wm. Barclay Parsons in 1893-9. Since then preliminary surveys have been run from Canton N. nearly 150 ms. and 100 ms. of same permanently located. On the N. end preliminary and location lines have been run from Yo Chow, at the mouth of the Siang River, to Chu Chou, the point of intersection with the Ping Hsiang branch. This is a distance of 150 ms., and is probably the portion which will be first constructed. This section, in connection with the Ping Hsiang-Chu Chou branch will deliver coal and coke to the comparatively deep water navigation of the Yangtze whence it will be distributed along the lower Yangtze by boat.

The Canton-Samshui branch for the first 14 ms. out from Canton runs over a flat country of alluvial formation and entirely covered with rice fields, cane, and vegetable gardens. This country is cut by many tidal streams, some of them being 125 ft. wide and very deep. Beyond Chai Bin the country assumes a broken aspect, and many low ridges separate the various valleys across which the line runs. These ridges are mostly of soft sandstone, only one reef of hard rock being found, and that was a black basalt at Wong Ting See, 3 ms. E of Sai Nam. The entire country except the ridges would be subject to overflow except for dykes which are about 7 ft. near Canton, while at Samshui the main dyke is 30 ft. high. All the streams crossed are navigable for some kind of craft at some time during the year, and this fact forced an ascending and descending grade at the principal crossings.

The first 10 ms. of this branch to Fatsan is double-tracked and the last 20 ms. is single-tracked. The double-tracked portion has 13 ft. centres and 31 ft. roadbed; is laid with 75-

lb. steel rails on steel ties and ballasted with broken stone on the Canton end and sand on the Fatsan end. The single-tracked line has a roadbed 18 ft. wide, is laid with the same weight rails upon Japanese oak ties, and is entirely sand ballasted. The alignment is very good.

ENGINEERING DIFFICULTIES.

The only engineering difficulties on this division are the bridge foundations, which were made by first driving piles to a depth sufficient to give a bearing power of 12 tons on each pile. The required resistance to penetration was usually obtained in a strata of coarse quartz sand which lay from 30 to 50 ft. below the surface and varied from 3 to 7 ft. in thickness. In some cases a bearing power of only 6 or 7 tons could be obtained, in which cases special designs were made by putting in more piles and covering more ground. The piles were cut off below water-level, all the silt taken out from between them, and coarse stones were rammed in to within 2 ft. of their tops upon which concrete was built to sub-grade and granite bridge seats put on. The spans are of 10, 15, 20, and 30 ft. deck girders, and 40 and 60 ft. through girders. There is one bridge across the Sainam River with 96-ft. spans and three other bridges on the line 120 ft. long, which have one 60-ft. and two 30-ft. girders. Several box and arched concrete culverts were used, and arched road crossings below grade. Short spans were used for economical reasons as steel laid down at the bridge sites was costly, while the cost of foundations was low owing to cheap material and labour. The ease in handling short spans with unskilled labour was a large factor, and all these reasons tended to an opposite economic condition to that found in Europe and America.

Only one permanent station was constructed and that at Fatsan. All others are small and temporary and put in at an average distance of 2 ms., thus giving the traffic an opportunity to develop and decide where stations were necessary. The Fatsan Station is a fairly handsome 2-storey structure built of brick and wood and the cost was about \$15,000 Hongkong currency.

A blacksmith and repair shop was established at Shek Wei Tong, which is complete enough to make all necessary assembling of rolling stock for the division and keep it in repair. This shop is entirely operated by Chinese workmen.

CHINESE CONTRACTORS.

With the bland-like simplicity of the Chinese there was no trouble in finding would-be contractors who would undertake any kind of a contract for any price and agree to complete it in any time required. Experience taught the engineers that the Chinese were able to contract for earth embankments and shallow cuts, while all other work was more economically performed by using foreign foremen or letting the work to foreign contractors. At best it was slow and costly as all the workmen had to be first taught, and there were no experienced foremen or reliable foreign contractors available. The building of this line was not only a school to the Chinese employed but it taught the engineers in charge how to take advantage of the peculiar conditions in China. That this schooling was valuable was clearly proven by the greatly reduced cost of the work performed on the main line after the completion of the branch.

METHODS AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION.

Many unique methods of construction were used, some original and others older than the hills to the Chinese, although new to foreigners. In the construction of embankments the Chinese were fairly adept for the reason that they had been constructing dykes for hundreds of years. They entirely ignored the use of wheelbarrows or all other methods of transportation except baskets. They were finally broken in to use wheelbarrows and small carts carrying about 1 cub. yd. For the transportation of materials less than 100 ft., baskets were found to be more economical, while for moderately short hauls the wheelbarrow proved the best. The carts were used in long hauls of 1,000 to 2,000 ft., and at a distance of 2,000 ft. ordinarily soft-cut material could be picked, shovelled into the carts and delivered into an embankment 200 ft. away for from 2 1/2 to 25 cts. Mexican per yd. Cost of overhaul by carts was about 1 ct. per cub. 100 ft., while overhaul by basket or wheelbarrow was from 1 to 2 cts. per yd. The cost of embankments to a height of 4 or 5 ft.,

through rice fields, was from 10 to 12 cts. per cub. yd., the cost increasing as to height of embankment, coming up to 18 or 20 cts. in some of the highest. These prices obtained on the main line after the completion of the branch. The cost of rock excavation run from 60 cts. on the softer sandstones to \$1.40 on hard trap per cub. yd.

Piles cost from 25 to 35 cts. per lin. ft. according as they were 25 or 50 long. The piles used were Chinese pine brought many hundreds of miles from the headwaters of the North and West Rivers. This wood is very poor—something like basswood—but is the best available and answers fairly well for pile foundations, but great care has to be used in driving to avoid breaking. A diameter of from 14 to 16 ins. at the butt is about the extreme size that is obtainable. The driving cost about \$2 each. At the larger bridges steam drivers were used and at the smaller ones hand drivers. The hand drivers were handmade and operated with a whim. One of the drivers was fitted with a treadmill arrangement for raising the hammer, and it was found that the same number of coolies would drive twice as many piles by this method in a day as by hand, and the manner of working appealed to them more strongly than raising the hammer by turning a crank.

Concrete for bridge foundations were composed of 1 part cement, 3 parts sand, and 5 parts broken stone. This cost in places from \$10 to \$14 per cub. yd., exclusive of cost of cofferdams when used, which added from \$1 to \$2 per cub. yd. The cement used was the "Green Island" brand which is one of the best cements in the Orient and very satisfactory to use on account of its uniformity. Sand of a most excellent quality was found in the immediate neighbourhood while the broken stone came from the North River and cost about \$2 per cub. yd.

Oregon Pine was used for forms, false work, etc., and cost in Canton \$70 per 1000 ft.

ROLLING STOCK.

The rolling stock is all of American make. Eight second-hand locomotives of the Manhattan Elevated Railroad were bought for \$3,000 gold each, and sent out for temporary and construction purposes. The standard locomotives weigh about 80 tons complete and were built by the Pittsburg Locomotive Works. Two of them are in use now and they are very common-sense and up-to-date machines. Twenty 40-ton flatcars were sent out before the branch was completed and it was necessary to transform these into temporary passenger coaches. This was done by the use of rough Oregon Pine, boarding them up half way, putting on a roof covered with "P. & B." roofing, and furnished with four long benches running lengthwise of the coach. The first class coaches were the same except the benches were either covered with Canton matting or replaced with bamboo chairs and had Canton matting on the floors.

The next step was the conversion of boxcars into passenger coaches which was performed by putting in benches and cutting two small windows on either side. After a few months first, second and third-class coaches were sent out, also baggage cars.

This branch commenced to pay after the first month that it was put in operation. The increase in volume of passenger traffic was steady for 15 months, when very nearly the maximum was reached. Since then the increase has been slow. The receipts of this line average from \$50,000 to \$60,000 per month, and the operating expenses are about 25 per cent. This makes a very creditable showing for Mr. Lind, the efficient traffic manager. An express freight has been established which is growing in popularity, and which is sure eventually to get all traffic in valuable cargo, such as specie, silks, tea, etc. It will be sometime, if ever, before this line will do a large freight business for waterways are everywhere and afford a cheap, if slow, means of transportation, and time is no object to the average Chinaman in his common everyday affairs.

THE MAIN LINE.

Construction was begun on the main line in January, 1904, and entirely suspended in October of the same year. During this time 12 ms. were practically completed from Canton to Ko Tong, with the exception of laying the rails over the last 6 ms. This work was not prosecuted vigorously as the money of the

company began to get short and only a limited amount could be expended monthly. It was very unfortunate that these 12 ms. could not have been finished and put into operation, as they would have added very materially to the receipts of the company. On these 12 ms. there was one through cut which was about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in length and at the summit 50 ft. deep, and contained 112,000 cub. yds. of material. A small industrial railway was used to haul the material in this cut to make the embankments on either end. The extreme haul was 3,000 ft. and the cost was 2 cts. a yd. The bridges on this section were all small and single spans. At Ko Tong 15 6-ft. spans were to be put in. Foundations had not been built at the time of the closing down of the work but the spans were made and in the yard of the Wong Sha, or Canton terminal.

When the Canton-Samshui division was put in operation all the locomotive drivers were foreigners with Chinese firemen. Within a year from the date of opening all the foreigners had been replaced by the native firemen and only one foreign expert driver retained to have general supervision over the rolling stock and teach new men. The same thing was done in handling the steam pile drivers. At first the crew was made up of foreigners who were soon replaced with Chinese. This applied through all the work, and when construction was suspended there was very little need of skilled foreign foremen, as Chinese skilled workmen had been developed in all lines.

EXCISE OFFICER MURDERED.

TRAGEDY IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

A disgusting rumour was in circulation in the city on the 3rd February which on being investigated proved to have its foundation in the fact that the Chief Excise Officer of the Opium Farm in the New Territory had been done to death in circumstances which pointed to murder. The deceased, Mr. Chau Beng-chau, who had come from Singapore and had proved a most energetic official, was stationed at Taipo, and while it is conjectured that murder was not the aim of the assailants, but rather robbery, it would seem that they had been induced to more violent measures than they had anticipated.

So far as can be ascertained, a party of armed robbers entered the matted occupied by Mr. Chau Beng-chau in the early hours of Saturday morning. As he had weapons there it is evident they must have taken him unawares, and it is even suggested that there must have been some complicity between his servants and the robbers before they could have gained admission to the matted. At any rate, when the police were apprised of the occurrence, and Sergeant Lander proceeded to the place, he found Mr. Chau Beng-chau dead, amid many signs of a struggle. It was probably the stout resistance offered that resulted in the fatal deed being perpetrated by the miscreants, who in their haste to escape went off leaving the bundle of loot they had prepared. The police authorities at Hongkong were communicated with, and in the afternoon the police launch proceeded to Taipo and took the necessary steps in the circumstances. The four robbers, with the two chair coolies who were in the employ of the deceased, have disappeared.

It is stated that within the last few days six native excise officers have resigned because they feared impending trouble, and the Opium Farmer is of the opinion that the criminals are likely to be found among the gangs of smugglers.

The plague total stands at three. During the week ending Jan. 27th, five cases of smallpox were notified, two being fatal. One was a Singhalese, the other four were Chinese.

Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has detailed three battalions of the reorganised Hupeh provincial army to act as guards to the Peking-Hankow Railway, from Hankow to the southern banks of the Yellow River. From the northern banks of that river to Peking the Viceroy and Governors of the provinces through which the line passes will detail each a battalion or so to act as guards of his particular section.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 16th annual meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society was held at the City Hall on the 3rd February, when the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock presided over a fair attendance.

The Chairman read the annual report submitted by the ladies of the committee. At the outset the ladies expressed their thanks to all who had assisted in carrying out the work of the Society during the past year. In that period 22 cases were brought under the notice of the committee and in 17 of these assistance was given. Other cases, numbering over 40, were assisted through the Rev. J. H. France, who had rendered considerable service to the Society by investigating cases and helping such as were deserving, the Society placing \$15 per month at his disposal for this purpose. Employment was found in the Colony for some of the applicants and passages paid for others to various places where they had friends or were likely to find employment. The Society paid for the support and education of four orphans at the Diocesan Girls' School every month in 1905. One had now finished her education and had obtained employment in the Colony as nursemaid. Two girls had been supported at the Italian Convent for the year; one boy at the French Convent; and one girl partly supported at Miss Johnstone's. As the funds of the Society were at a very low ebb in October Major Chapman kindly consented to the proceeds taken at one of the Volunteer concerts being given to the Society. Through the kindness of many people and firms, who generously gave their services and help, and to the committee supporting the concert the funds were increased by the large amount of \$1,095. During the year Mrs. Robertson resigned her place on the committee owing to ill-health, and Mrs. Dickson had since acted as president, Lady Berkeley continuing as vice-president. Mrs. Hoare left the Colony during the year, and Mrs. Johnson was elected on the committee in her place. The following ladies retire in rotation from the committee: Mrs. Hickling, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Peter and Mrs. Swan. The two former offered themselves for re-election; Mrs. Peter and Mrs. Swan resign, as they were leaving the Colony.

The CHAIRMAN, having given details of the cases of relief, said it would be seen that the Society had done a great deal of work and would have done more if they had had the funds at their disposal. He should like to see more people subscribe to the funds of the Society and assist them in their work, because all who had offices in the city knew that men often came in for assistance and were given money in order to be got rid of. He objected most strongly to indiscriminate charity and indeed to charity at all to anyone who was able to work. It would be better, in his opinion, if people instead of giving money themselves were to contribute to the Society and then refer all cases to it. By doing so they could be sure that each case would be properly investigated and dealt with on its merits (applause). The accounts showed that they had carried forward \$983.03 from last year, and had afforded relief to the extent of \$2,388.54, but had it not been for the large sum, \$1,095, received through the Volunteer concert they would have a serious deficit to face. He, therefore, appealed to the general public to come forward and support the Society, which he might say was urgently in need of funds. Regarding the Destitutes' Relief Scheme members would remember a resolution which was passed at last annual meeting by which it was decided to adopt His Excellency the Governor's proposal temporarily for a term of not less than a year until the Government had drawn up some scheme to do away with the difficulty. His Excellency had written to say that he wished to continue his subscription and hoped that other guarantors would do the same, at least, during the coming year. From this it would be seen that the Government had evidently not yet been able to draw up any satisfactory

scheme. His Excellency was anxious that the scheme for giving relief in deserving cases should be continued, so he hoped that the same guarantors and some fresh ones would come forward.

Mr. Pollock then read the Rev. J. H. France's report of the working of the Guarantee Scheme as follows:—In view of the fear openly expressed by prominent members of the community that the publication of the guarantee scheme would lead to the invasion of undesirables from the surrounding ports it was thought advisable to exercise care in the administration of the funds, and to err in the direction of strictness rather than in that of leniency, and it was made a fixed rule that men who were known to have deserted their ships should not be eligible to receive its benefits. At the same time care was taken that no deserving case that could be brought under the scope of its operations should be neglected. About the middle of the year it was suggested by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan that the original scheme should be extended so as to make it available not only for seamen but also for destitute Europeans of all classes. This proposal having been accepted by all but two of the guarantors the scheme on the whole was worked on the wider lines, care, however, being taken to reserve the guarantees of the two dissentients for *bond fide* sailors. Ten cases in all were admitted to the benefits of the scheme. Out of this number six obtained employment after longer or shorter periods of waiting. One of this number on the very day on which he became chargeable to his guarantor. One was taken over by the Board of Trade and sent home to England; one through age and infirmity coupled with bad habits failed to obtain employment; a third disappeared from the Colony on the day on which employment was found for him and a fourth, after staying in the Sailors' Home for three days, refused to comply with the reasonable requests of the Home superintendent and left the Home and subsequently the Colony. On the whole, the scheme may be said to have met a real need. A number of men have been enabled by its means to keep afloat during what might otherwise have been a period of absolute destitution, and have thus had a much better chance of getting employment.

Rev. Mr. HICKLING asked if all the guarantors under the Governor's scheme had been called on during the year.

Mr. POLLOCK understood that ten guarantors were not.

Mr. HICKLING supported Mr. Pollock's remarks, but wished to add that no charity should be given to anyone able to work and able to get work. There had been cases during the year of men able and willing to work, but unable to get it; there was also a case in which a man who had been assisted not only repaid the money expended on him, but gave a donation towards assisting other unfortunates. He thought there were many people who would support the Society, but who could not afford to give \$12; therefore, they should make it known that they would be pleased to receive smaller amounts. Another important matter he thought should be brought forward was with regard to the increasing number of destitute Americans who were finding their way here from Manila. It was very necessary that the American community in the Colony should come forward with some real assistance towards their relief. When these people endeavoured to call on their own nationals they were turned by underlings, and never succeeded in getting to the fountain head.

Mr. POLLOCK agreed with the remarks of Messrs. France and Hickling, and said he felt sure American agents would come forward now that their attention had been called to the matter of their destitute countrymen.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, the result being as follows:—President, Mrs C. W. Dickson; vice-president, Lady Berkeley; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Gershom Stewart; Hon. Secretary, Mrs Thomson; Committee, Mrs Badeley, Mrs Barnes-Lawrence, Mrs Hickling, Mrs Turner, Mrs Marcus Slade, Mrs Saunders and Mrs Browne; Reference committee, Rev. J. H. France, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Dr. F. Clark, and Dr. Thomson.

HONGKONG'S FINANCES.

In the last issue of the *Government Gazette* appears a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the period ended November 30th, 1905. Statistics as a rule do not afford very entertaining reading, but some of the figures in the table under notice are very suggestive and worthy of consideration. Looking at the totals first we find that the actual revenue up to November 30th was \$6,138,896.13 and the actual expenditure \$6,209,548.43. Although we have overrun the constant last year, we need not fear bankruptcy, and though it is not considered good business to draw on our resources, yet it is to be inferred that the deficit is more an item of bookkeeping than an actual loss. While the actual revenue falls about a million and a half dollars below the estimates, it is balanced to some extent by the actual expenditure being less than that anticipated, just under a million dollars, so the guess work of the estimates is not so far out after all. Again, it will be noticed that in the previous year we were more fortunately situated, for our revenue was in excess of the expenditure by about, roughly, \$200,000. Therefore, figuratively speaking, a fat year has been followed by a lean one. This will become more apparent when subtracting the figures for the two years we get only an increase of \$172,000 under revenue, but an increase of \$476,000 under expenditure. This would indicate that our income is certainly not keeping pace with our expenditure. Analysing the heads of revenue we find that the only decreases are from rent of government property, land and houses (\$27,082.89), and from land sales (\$62,112.23). The largest increase is from licences and internal revenue not otherwise specified, \$213,822, while the water account gives us an increase of \$23,577. It is satisfactory to note that the Post Office can show a progressive record, its revenue having gone up from \$387,893 in the similar period of 1904 to \$395,034 for last year, although it has not come up to the estimate. Another remarkable feature is that the amount derived from interest, \$10,073, is more than double what was estimated, \$5,000; but the amount of miscellaneous receipts (\$62,908), while showing an advance over those for the same period in the preceding year, is only about one-third of what was expected. Land sales' results are not far short of two million dollars less than was expected, and that account has also to show a decrease of \$65,211 when compared with 1904. Turning to the heads of expenditure we are faced with the fact that there are considerably more items which show increases than decreases. The most notable decreases are under the headings of Public Works Recurrent, \$91,307, and Land Court, New Territory, \$19,610, followed by the charge on account of public debt, \$9,354. Last year the Post Office absorbed \$521,052, almost double that of the previous period and very much in excess of the estimate. The Botanical and Afforestation Department was not so costly as was anticipated, only \$39,489 being spent as compared with \$45,643 the previous year. It was about \$9,000 under the estimate. The ecclesiastical expenditure was the same as last year, \$2,700, but the money spent in education, which few will begrudge, is greater by \$5,541 than in 1904, while the cost of medical and bacteriological departments was \$888 less. Another item which shows a decrease is the Magistracy, last year's figures being \$31,642 as compared with \$33,674 the previous year, but the upkeep of police, fire brigade and gaol involved \$612,859, a sum which shows an advance of \$3,836 on that of the preceding period. The Sanitary Department also calls for an increasing expenditure, last year's figures, \$358,989, being \$8,757 more than its predecessor. Military expenditure amounted to no less than \$1,294,197, an advance of \$89,099, while public works extraordinary called for \$161,139 more than last year.

Kowloon is to have a Post Office. Tenders are called in the current *Gazette*, which are returnable at noon on Tuesday, February 13th, at the C.S.O. The notification states that no work will be permitted on Sundays.

THE CONNAUGHT RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

We have been supplied by Mr. C. H. Beavis, the hon. secretary, with the following list of names of the Connaught Reception Committee: His Honour Sir Francis Pigott (Chairman) The Honourable Mr. W. Chatham The Honourable Mr. C. W. Dickson The Honourable Mr. A. W. Brewin The Honourable Capt. L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence The Honourable Dr. Ho Kai The Honourable Mr. Wei Yuk The Honourable Mr. R. G. Shewan The Honourable Mr. Gershom Stewart The Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C. M. G. Mr. F. J. Badeley Mr. E. A. Hewett Mr. J. R. M. Smith Mr. D. R. Lay Mr. S. T. Dunn Mr. Leung Pui Chi Lt-Col. C. H. Price, D. S. O. Capt. Savory, R. N. * The Honourable Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C. * The Honourable Sir Henry S. Berkeley * The Honourable Mr. T. Sercombe Smith * Mr. E. H. Sharp, K. C. * Mr. S. A. Levy * Mr. E. Shellim * The Committee was appointed by H. E. The Governor and having power to add to their number added the gentlemen whose names are marked with an asterisk.

BANK OFFICIAL'S TRAGIC DEATH.

It is with regret we have to report the death of Mr. George Alexander Chalmers, senior sub-accountant at the Chartered Bank, under tragic circumstances. About 11 o'clock on January 25th Mr. Chalmers had occasion to go down to the servants' quarters, and in descending the narrow stair his foot must have slipped, causing him to fall heavily to the bottom, a distance apparently of about fifteen feet, where he alighted on his head. When found a few minutes later by one of his mess mates he was in an unconscious condition. Medical assistance was promptly secured, and later he was conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital where he died at one o'clock yesterday morning. He had received a fracture on the base of the skull and never recovered consciousness. Deceased, who was only thirty years of age, had been in the service of the Bank for eight years at Calcutta, Sourabaya, and in Japan. He left Yokohama only six months ago to accompany the Inspector, and arrived here in August. He joined the Bank's staff in the following month. A pathetic feature is that Mr. Chalmers had arranged to go home next month on furlough.

A native of Montrose, Scotland, where he leaves two sisters, deceased was of a very amiable disposition and during his short residence here gathered round him a circle of friends who will deeply mourn his loss.

THE SHIPPING AND TRADE OF HONGKONG FOR 1905.

During the year 1905 the total number of ships trading to this port was 452,758, having a registered tonnage of 34,185,091. These vessels discharged 4,733,943 tons of cargo, and shipped 3,067,792, while 3,415,418 tons passed through the port. Bunker coal to the amount of 677,418 tons was shipped. The number of passengers to arrive was 5,812,841, of whom 5,511,365 departed, besides 64,341 emigrants. Of the vessels engaged in the trade of the port 3,995 were British and 3,845 foreign ocean going; while in the river trade there were 7,488 British and 975 foreign river steamers. The number of steamships under 60 tons engaged in foreign trade was 1,800, while a fleet of 33,475 junks also traversed eastern seas bringing cargo from various ports to and taking it from Hongkong. Steam launches to the number of 337,913 were engaged in local trade and 63,267 junks, the Star Ferry Company's launches not being included in the former number.

HONGKONG AND THE HOUSING QUESTION.

[WRITTEN FOR THE "DAILY PRESS."]

The housing of the population of Hongkong is a question that has exercised the minds of our authorities for many years and despite earnest attempts at its solution the problem still faces us. There is no disguising the fact that the evils of overcrowding are as pronounced as they were before the passing of the Public Health Ordinance in 1903 and that notwithstanding glowing reports of good work done there is evidence that only the fringe has been touched. Admittedly the resumptions which have been undertaken by the Government have proved of incalculable benefit to the areas which were so fortunately situated as to come within their scope, but they have been very costly, and the work has been so tardy that it does not seem inopportune now to suggest that the existing conditions demand the application of more speedy measures, either as palliatives or reforms.

With a view to bettering the housing of the Chinese, the whole of the Sanitary and Building Ordinances were consolidated in one Bill which became the "Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903." One of its principal provisions was the abolition of cubicles, the idea being that speculators would be compelled to build suitable houses which would contain legal rooms, but unfortunately the desired result has not been achieved and the enactment is for all practical purposes nugatory. True, the wooden partitions which divided the floor of the Chinese house into so many apartments have been removed—thus complying with the letter of the Ordinance—but they have been replaced by cloth curtains or sacking, which are more objectionable inasmuch as they afford less privacy and are dirtier and more insanitary. This we can affirm as the result of independent inquiry.

From the superficial observation exercised by the ordinary citizen taking a walk through Chinatown it is very apparent that the densely packed hovels, more like rabbit hutches than the dwellings of human beings, are a menace to the public health and certainly no credit to any community. In the neighbourhood of Old Taipingshan the unsightly erections, swarming with people, with equal filth and dirt staring the visitor in the face, are veritable dens of darkness. Supposing we enter any of those houses, what do we find? The most wretched conditions in which it is possible to imagine any people. Take a typical house, not the worst by any means. It is three or four storeys in height. Each storey consists of one long room, about 60 feet in length and 13 feet in width, and a kitchen attached. The ground floor is perhaps occupied as a workshop, with sleeping accommodation for about ten persons beyond. The second floor is usually a family flat. The owner lets it to one person at a rent varying from \$14 to \$24, dependent on the locality, and he or she sublets it in portions to a number of married couples, usually six, occasionally more, who pay rents sufficient to afford a margin of profit to the actual tenant. As the room is long and narrow, extending from the front of the house to the back without lateral windows, it will be easily understood that the greater part of the apartments are in darkness and also deficient in ventilation; only the cubicle next the window has any light or fresh air. The occupants of the others, if they wish to do any work, must light lamps or candles, even in broad daylight. Truly, a sad state of affairs. But this is not all. Besides the families which occupy the cubicles—and a cubicle really consists of a bed space curtained off, affording little or no privacy and absolutely not the slightest degree of comfort or convenience—there are as a rule several beds or bunks in the remaining portion of the room on which the tenant or perhaps some single men may sleep, and the amount of overcrowding which this arrangement causes is sometimes to have over 20 people sleeping in one room. The third floor may be a men's flat, and consists of a number of bunks, certificated to accommodate 10, 12, or 14 persons. With the exception of the outside walls, the building is of the flimsiest wood, and it is not difficult to imagine what an awful death-roll there would be should the premises catch fire.

There is only one stuffy little kitchen available to the residents of each floor for culinary uses. Other conveniences there are none, not even a constant supply of water, and there can be little wonder that with darkness, absence of fresh air, overcrowding, lack of ordinary conveniences, not to speak of a plentiful supply of water, and impossibility of enjoying ablutions, it is very difficult to keep those cubicles clean.

Were the law enforced and only legal rooms permitted, i.e., a window provided for each cubicle, some measure of improvement would be apparent, but at present the only result of enforcing the law abolishing cubicles is to harass the unfortunate tenants who experience a bad time when the Sanitary Inspector comes round and insists on the woodwork being taken down. The owner escapes all the worry and trouble except perhaps indirectly, when he may experience difficulty in letting a floor, but that contingency will not occur very often in a city where overcrowding is so rampant as here.

That the problem is not an insoluble one has already been proved. As your correspondent "Pro Bono Publico" recently pointed out, a block of houses has just been erected on the east side of Hill Road, capable of accommodating at least 300 people. There the six tenements have lateral windows, a very ordinary convenience has been placed in each, and there are proper apartments, well lighted, and on the whole possessing some degree of comfort and privacy. In existing tenements that are not on areas selected for resumption the application of similar methods as a palliative is surely not unworthy of consideration, pending some more drastic measure of reform which will not be so slow nor so expensive as the present policy of resumption.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Brinkell & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, January, 18th, 1906, states:—The home markets are firm. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 12-1½ and in Lyons at Fcs. 34. Raw Silk.—Market firm but quiet. A few settlements of Tsatees have been made at a small advance in local prices. Yellow Silks.—A small business has been done in Mienyangs. Steam Filatures.—Continue to be taken in small lots for Lyons. Hand Filatures.—A fair business has been done in this class of Silk for Lyons. Waste Silk.—No change to report.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—A downward tendency continues, market being very dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.40 to \$8.45 per c.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.20 to 7.25 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.30 to 6.35 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.30 to 5.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.10 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.10 to 7.15 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	10.50 to 10.60 "
Shekloong.....	9.55 to 9.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th February.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.80 to \$2.85
" Round, good quality.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Long.....	3.70 to 3.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.75 to 3.80
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo.....	4.20 to 4.25

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New.....	\$1010 to — per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$1070 to — do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1130 to — do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1200 to — do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$1100 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$1150 to — do.
Patna New.....	\$930 to — per chest.
Patna Old.....	\$925 to — do.
Benares New.....	\$900 to — do.
Benares Old.....	\$900 to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 18th January, 1906, states:—It is now within a week of the close of the Native year, truly a year of contradictions; and the unexpected has once more happened, for, contrary to the usual course of the trade at this particular season, there has sprung up such an active demand for heavy Cotton goods as to quite raise the hopes of importers, who were on the point of despair at the contemplation of their rapidly accumulating stocks, and no apparent outlet for them. The Northern buyers have come to the rescue chiefly, and, assisted by an understanding that has been come to amongst the dealers here with the object of upholding prices, there is a very much better prospect for trade than has been the case for months past. Although the bulk of the transactions have been in American makes Manchester goods are not altogether neglected, though the bogus reports of sales are getting more misleading than ever. In the market book to-day for instance, numerous large transactions are credited to a prominent firm, but on investigation they turn out to be merely the prices at which their chief dealer is willing to resell at. No doubt some have been resold, but only a fraction of the quantities published. Speaking generally clearances have been distinctly better, this no doubt being accounted for by the more favorable exchange obtainable now than for next month, which enables holders to be more lenient in their demands if they can get prompt cash. Some of the resales of American makes are most erratic, and exemplify the necessity of the dealers coming to the understanding they have done, at the same time showing the nervous state of anxiety to which some of the weak holders were reduced. Manchester keeps very strong with prices some ten per cent. over sales here, which should help to curtail the supply and put the trade on a more stable footing again. Resales of both Grey and Bleached goods on that market, which we understand have not been infrequent, will help to relieve the situation here. The size of the Cotton crop still seems to be a bone of contention and is doubtless the cause of the constant fluctuation. According to latest advices Mid American has advanced to 6.2½d. while Egyptian is 5.25d. In New York the latest quotation for "July option" is 11.91. The Goods market is unchanged. Stocks:—The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce still complains of the dilatory manner in which the returns are coming in. It really makes one shiver to think of the appalling state the stock books of some Firms must be in if it takes more than two weeks to find out what they have got. Piece Goods.—Transactions continue to be almost entirely from second hand holders, and at prices that do not tempt Importers to sell. There is a much greater feeling of confidence in the future now, it being anticipated the demand will set in with renewed vigour after the holidays, and with the high prices in the home markets a good opportunity will be given to reduce stocks very materially before cheaper goods can be laid down here. The Auctions show a slight reaction, strange to say, in Cotton goods. The Yarn market is strong and advancing for all kinds, and Native Cotton is firmer forward delivery.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai 24th January, 1906, states:—Gallnuts.—The tone of the market has strengthened since our last went to press, and dealers are asking higher prices. As there was no offset for this rise by a drop in exchange, business has been very restricted in the meantime. Cowhides.—The market keeps remarkably steady and Chinese are still getting the same high prices as a fortnight ago. There are no signs which point towards lower prices, and should exchange drop we are of opinion that Chinese will take full benefit of it and even raise their demands. Tobacco.—Nothing doing. Feathers.—Arrivals are very small and business is dull on account of the bad state of the home markets. Cotton.—Prices, especially for Hanhow Cotton, have further advanced and export business is quite out of the question. Shanghai descriptions are also in better demand for local consumption. Tallow.—There is some demand for white vegetable Tallow, but only a limited business has been done, as Chinese ideas of price do not suit home buyers. Strawbraid.—There is a strong demand for cheap Mottles, coarse Splits and fine soft Braids. Goatskin Rugs.—There is a keen demand for all descriptions but supplies are rather small. Wool.—Big lots have changed hands in the meantime and prices are consequently very firm.

HANKOW, 24th Jan., 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 37.50
Do. Seconds	33.00
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	18.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	59.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	7.80
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	12.00
White China Grass, Sinahan and/or Chayu	11.25
Green China Grass, Szechuen	(nom.)
Jute	4.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	8.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	8.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	(nom.)
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.20
Do. Plum do.	18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	(nom.)
Do. Wongkong	"
Black Bristles	"
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	"
Do. " " Wild Duck	"
Turmeric	"
Sesamum Seed	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	(nom.)
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	"
Wood Oil	8.10
Tea Oil	10.00

Per steamer *Idomeneus*, sailed on 18th January. For Port Said:—27 cases glass bangles. For London or Hamburg or Antwerp:—240 boxes bristles. For London:—419 packages merchandise. For Amsterdam:—350 casks ginger, 43 cases chinaware. For Rotterdam:—3 packages sundries, 176 rolls matting. For London:—235 bales waste silk, 315 cases chinaware, effects and sundries, 505 rolls matting, 280 casks preserves, 1,000 cases preserves, 600 bales canes, 121 packages shells, 40 cases essential oil, 50 casks soy, 50 cases bristles. For London or Glasgow:—200 casks preserves, 250 cases preserves. For London or Hamburg:—50 cases essential oil, 10 boxes bristles, 27 bales canes. For London or Cont.:—50 cases essential oil, 509 bales canes, 2 cases shells, 4 cases human hair, 100 cases aniseed, 100 bales galangal. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—350 casks ginger, 5 casks soy. For Copenhagen:—135 bales feathers. For Antwerp:—170 bales feathers.

Per steamer *Pak Ling*, sailed on 20th January. For Constantinople:—103 rolls matting, 76 cases cassia. For Trieste:—400 bales cassia. For Marseilles or Havre:—54 bales canes, 10 cases human hair, 5 cases chinaware, 65 bales human hair, 3 packages effects. For Marseilles or Havre:—262 bales canes, 50 cases aniseed. For Havre:—50 cases aniseed. For Bordeaux:—714 rolls matting. For Liverpool:—276 bales waste silk, 117 bales canes, 100 casks ginger, 35 packages effects and sundries. For Hamburg:—3 boxes feathers.

Per P. & O. steamer *Oceana*, sailed on 27th January. For London:—2 cases cigars, 10 packages feathers, 455 rolls mats and matting, 8 cases woodware, 13 cases copperware, 45 packages tea, 3 cases silk, 2 packages sundries, 2 cases wet ginger, 114 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case silverware. For Havre (opt.):—495 slabs tin. For Bordeaux:—310 rolls mats. For Lyons:—10 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—68 rolls matting, 5 bales raw silk, 4 cases curios, &c.

Per steamer *Stentor*, sailed on 30th January. For London:—520 rolls matting, 62 packages effects and sundries, 220 packages merchandise, 85 bales canes. For London or Hamburg:—48 packages merchandise, 95 bales canes. For Glasgow:—5 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Malacca*, sailed on 31st January. For Rotterdam:—350 bales hemp. For Hamburg:—10 cases cigars. For Copenhagen:—11 cases cigars. For Liverpool:—340 bales hemp. For Manchester:—51 bales waste silk. For London:—3 cases cigars, 9 packages sundries, 2 packages private effects, 1,945 bales hemp, 101 cases camphor (opt.).

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 5th February.

ON LONDON.—	Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/2
	Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/2
	Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0 1/2
ON LONDON.—	Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
	Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
	Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand	255 1/2
	Credits 4 months' sight	259 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	On demand	208 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand	49 1/2
	Credits, 60 days' sight	50 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer	151 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	Bank, on demand	151 1/2
	Telegraphic Transfer	151 1/2
	Bank, on demand	151 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight	71 1/2
	Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand	99 1/2
ON MANILA.—	On demand	99 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand	16 p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand	122 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand	2 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand	2 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand	61 1/2
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate		\$9.80
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael		\$52.10
BAR SILVER, per oz.		80 1/2

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai January, 18th, 1906, states:—Since writing our last there has been little change in the market. Cargo going forward is made up of the muck and truck sort, and there is a scarcity of that. Steamers are, consequently, not doing very well. Coastwise.—Tonnage is over plentiful, rates are ruinous, charters have been as low as 95 cents from Moji to this.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland), Tea, G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai; Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 2nd February, 1906.—There is nothing of any importance to report; business is still very dull, but rates generally are fairly well maintained. Exchange on London 2/0 1/2 T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have declined to \$895, at which rate shares are obtainable. Latest London quotation £96. (s. National still wanted at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have changed hands at \$735. China Traders can be had at \$91. Cantons are firmer and are wanted at \$325.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are obtainable at \$325, and a small business has been done in China Fires at \$38.

SHIPPING.—There are sellers of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats at \$26. Indos have advanced and are firm at \$97. China and Maillas have been dealt in at \$20; no change to report in other stocks under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars. Sales have been made at \$207 1/2 and \$208 for cash, and at \$213/215 for March, also at \$216 for May and \$218 for June; the market closes firmer with an incipient demand at \$210 cash. Luzons are wanted at \$25.

MINING.—Raubs are on offer at \$4 1/2.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been dealt in, and can be had, at \$165. Kowloon Wharves are obtainable at \$108. Farnhams have declined to Tls. 128, and Hongkew Wharves to Tls. 230.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are to be had at \$120 ex dividend, and West Points at \$53 ex dividend. Humphrey's have changed hands, and can be had, at \$13; change or business to report in other stocks under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons can be placed at \$14 1/2; other stocks unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands are steady at \$30. Hongkong Electrics (old shares) have been placed at \$15 1/2. Hongkong Ices are wanted at \$245; other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200.	\$100, sellers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$895, sellers
National B. of China		London, £96
A. Shares	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6 1/2, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
China-Provident	\$10	\$8 1/2
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 47, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14 1/2, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15 1/2, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 128
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$165, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$17
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 230
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$25
		\$24 1/2
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15 1/2, sales & buy.
Do. New	\$10	\$14 1/2, sales & buy.
H. H. L. T. ramways	\$100	\$210
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$149
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$245, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152, buyers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$12, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$325, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$88, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$91, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 92 1/2
Union	\$100	\$735, sales & buy.
Yangtze	\$60	\$170
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$120, sellers ex d.
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$13, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers ex d.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$400
Raubs	18/10	\$4 1/2, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$210
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$20, sales
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$26, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$210	\$97
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$23/-, sellers
Do. Preference	\$210	\$23. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laund. Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$6 1/2, sales & sel.
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10 1/2, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$6, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, sellers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST.

MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.

- 25, Anna, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 25, Delhi, British str., from London.
 25, Elis. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 25, Heleue, German str., from Hoihow.
 25, Koon Shing, British str., from Wuhu.
 25, Quinfa, German str., from Chinkiang.
 25, Syferny, German str., from Nagasaki.
 25, Zaida, British str., from Rangoon.
 26, Glenogle, British str., from London.
 26, Hsinchang, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 26, K. Park, British str., from Chingwantao.
 26, Kostroma, Russian str., from Odessa.
 26, Oceana, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Pathan, British str., from Foochow.
 26, Shahjehan, British str., from Saigon.
 26, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 26, Tientsin, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Trigonis, Dutch str., from Sumatra.
 26, Triumph, German str., from Shanghai.
 27, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
 27, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
 27, Dakota, British str., from Seattle.
 27, Diadem, British cruiser, from Saigon.
 27, Germania, German str., from Chinkiang.
 27, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 27, Ithaka, German str., from Chinkiang.
 27, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 27, Oscar II., Norwegian str., from Moji.
 27, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Shawmut, American str., from Tacoma.
 28, Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.
 28, Cranley, British str., from Chingwantao.
 28, Gregory Apar, British str., from Calcutta.
 28, Loongmoon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 28, Malacca, British str., from Yokohama.
 28, Paoting, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Stentor, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Taiwan, British str., from Saigon.
 28, Vincent, British ship, from Philadelphia.
 29, Alesia, German str., from Moji.
 29, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29, Castor, Norwegian str., from Tsingtao.
 29, Chihli, British str., from Nagasaki.
 29, Roon, German str., from Yokohama.
 29, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 29, Taiyuan, British str., from Yokohama.
 29, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 30, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 30, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 30, Korea, American str., from San Francisco.
 30, Stiklestad, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
 30, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 30, Thyra, Norw. str., from Kuchinotzu.
 31, Asama, British str., from Calcutta.
 31, Avala, British str., from New York.
 31, Baralong, British str., from London.
 31, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 31, Denbighshire, British str., from London.
 31, Flora, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 31, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 31, Heleue Menzell, German str., from Moji.
 31, Hogue, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 31, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 31, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 31, Queen Alexandra, British whaler, from Christmas Island.
 31, Scandia, German str., from Hamburg.
 31, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Kobe.
 31, Signora, German str., from Bangkok.

February—

- 1, Bonaventure, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Cape Corriente, British str., from Moji.
 1, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 1, Nubia, British str., from London.
 1, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 1, Zieten, German str., from Bremen.
 2, Courtfield, British str., from Bombay.
 2, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 2, Heleue, German str., from Hoihow.
 2, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 2, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 3, African Monarch, Brit. str., from Australia.
 3, Eastern, British str., from Australia.
 3, Fooksang, British str., from Swatow.
 3, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 3, Hans Wagner, Ger. str., from Swatow.
 3, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 3, Tainan, British str., from Australia.
 3, Wik, German str., from Mororan.
 3, Yeddo, British str., from New York.

January—

DEPARTURES.

- 25, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 25, Austria, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 25, Justin, U.S. supply ship, for Shanghai.
 25, Raleigh, U.S. cruiser, for Amoy.
 26, Delhi, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Manchuria, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 27, Anna, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 27, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Malaya, Russian str., for Odessa.
 27, Oceana, British str., for Europe.
 27, Pathan, British str., for New York.
 27, Volute, British str., for Balik Papan.
 27, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 28, Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.
 28, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 28, Decima, German str., for Swatow.
 28, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Koon Shing, British str., for Canton.
 28, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 28, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 29, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 29, Germania, German str., for Canton.
 29, Paoting, British str., for Canton.
 29, Shawmut, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
 29, Trigonis, Dutch str., for Canton.
 30, Alesia, German str., for Ham'urg.
 30, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 31, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 30, Cranley, British str., for Durban.
 30, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 30, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 30, Ithaka, German str., for Canton.
 30, Quinta, German str., for Canton.
 30, Stentor, British str., for London.
 31, Taiwan, British str., for Chinkiang.
 31, Taiwan, British str., for Manila.
 30, Zaida, British str., for Singapore.
 31, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Dakota, British str., for Seattle.
 31, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 31, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
 31, Holstein, German str., for Hoihow.
 31, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 31, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 31, Malacca, British str., for London.
 31, Roon, German str., for Europe.
 31, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 31, Triumph, German str., for Shanghai.
 31, Vorwarts, German str., for Saigon.

February—

- 1, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Otterpool, British str., for Maulmein.
 1, Paoting, British str., for Iloilo.
 1, Q. Alexandra, British whaler, for N'azki.
 1, Scandia, German str., for Shanghai.
 1, Tientsin, British str., for Ningpo.
 1, Zieten, German str., for Shanghai.
 2, Anghin, German str., for Swatow.
 2, Baralong, British str., for Nagasaki.
 2, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S' Francisco.
 2, Kwongtsh, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 2, Oscar II., Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.
 2, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Macassar.
 2, Denbighshire, British str., for Nagasaki.
 3, Fri, Norwegian str., for Tsintao.
 3, Kansu, British str., for Kobe.
 3, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 3, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
 3, Nubia, British str., for Yokohama.
 3, Petchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 3, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 3, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
 3, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Oceana*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mrs. Gore, Miss S. Wallace, Messrs. C. Hoffman, N. Dallas, G. B. Cuthinson, H. J. Reid, K. P. Wadman, Mr. and Mrs. Imockh, Messrs. B. Atkinson, G. H. Potts, R. E. Kadolis, Lewis Plummer, R. H. Parker, M. H. Buyers, E. D. C. Wolf, P. W. Massey, C. R. Tozer, G. Shebury, F. H. Crossley and A. H. Bardon.
 Per *Delhi*, for Hongkong from London, Mr. W. Cameron, Mr. Furney; from Gibraltar, Mr. and Mrs. Jennings and 4 children, Private Peckham and Mr. Jacquets; from Port Said, Sergt. and Mrs. Thompson and child; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Col. Tarze, Mrs. Binnys and 2 children, Mrs. Tusby and 4 children, Master Tusby, Messrs. Mordaunt, Vasconillos, D. M. Mestri and Ramchandra Gargos; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Sielokon;

from Singapore, Messrs. P. Solomon, Hughes, Jamieson, F. Walker, Capt. Toke, Mrs. Yokoyama, Mr. Makaki, Mrs. Schuss, Messrs. Kohara, T. Minami, S. Okomoto, Adler and J. Merecki; for Shanghai from London, Mr. Blake, Mr. Whyte, Mr. and Mrs. Little; from Marseilles, Dr. and Mrs. K. Wilde, Messrs. Middleton, Paton, Lieut. and Mrs. Gastrell; from Brindisi, Mr. Finlayson; from Colombo, Mr. Yakawa; from Penang, Mr. A. D. Hallifax; from Singapore, Messrs. J. West, Toyonatsu, Yoshitan Ikikoda, D. Matsumoto, K. Yamamoto, Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Otomo; for Nagasaki from Marseilles, Mr. Schwartz; from London for Yokohama, Mrs. Smart, Mr. Nisbet; from Marseilles, Mr. Michel and Mr. Coduri; from Port Said, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hoyt.

Per *Korea*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Schoonmaker, Messrs. A. W. Walter, J. H. Ankrum, Miss S. Bolton, Mr. S. Uchigaki, Mr. and Mrs. A. Falter, Mr. Edward Hartley, Mrs. H. E. Heacock, Miss A. Heacock, Messrs. T. H. Jones, W. Kaufmann, Harry E. Laughlin, Miss S. K. Marks, Miss H. A. Mead, Messrs. F. J. Montgomery, J. S. Nichol, Miss Maud E. Gleson, Miss Clara Tait, Mr. E. P. Whitten, Mrs. A. P. Whittell, Miss Florence Whittell, Mr. W. E. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. E. Kisevitch, Mr. C. R. Burkill, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. J. McPherson, Mrs. Irvine, Messrs. Hayes, Moutrie, Byrne, Mr. and Mrs. N. Bake.

Per *Dakota*, from Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Gebel, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. D. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wallace, jr., Maj. and Mrs. L. H. Walker, Mrs. H. C. Bates, Mrs. Mary D. Ward, Mrs. F. Southern, Mrs. F. Allen, Mr. F. G. Morse, Miss A. Cunningham, Miss Hazel K. Ingalls, Miss Ida Stevens, Miss Bessie Wallace, Ensign W. D. Greetham, Ensign R. W. Kessler, Asst. Surg. L. H. Wheeler, Messrs. J. V. Quintos, J. E. Ellis, L. Rich, J. H. Wallen, G. F. Bateman, T. Wroe, A. C. Drabble, K. Ihara and Zun Chamow.

DEPARTED.

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